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LAST ISSUE

Near East & South Asia

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FBIS-NES-96-154
Thursday
8 August 1996

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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-96-154

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Inter-Arab Affairs: 'Minutes' of al-Asad-'Arafat Meeting Published

JN0808062596 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic
5 Aug 96 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-MAJD has learned that the meeting that was held between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Yasir 'Arafat at the Presidential Palace in Latakia two weeks ago produced no significant results and did not deal with the substantial issues between the two sides.

The meeting, attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', was inaugurated by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, who addressed al-Asad, saying: You are a great and benevolent leader who is known for his wisdom and distinguished stands. We hope that today's meeting will be the beginning of joint action and an opportunity to open a new chapter with Syria, which we highly appreciate under your leadership. We need your support today more than ever. How can we engage in the battle of Jerusalem, the refugees, settlements, and the building of the Palestinian state without your support for our causes?

President al-Asad spoke tersely about the current circumstances, particularly in light of the Likud's rise to power. He underscored the importance of Arab solidarity and unifying Arab ranks, not only among the Arab countries, but also among the popular forces within every country, given that this will boost national unity and Arab solidarity.

Al-Asad also referred to Qaddumi's demands regarding cooperation and coordination, saying: This was very possible before signing the Oslo accords. However, what remained for coordination. You put yourself in a dilemma that worsened after the Likud's assumption of power. We do not refrain from supporting any Arab party. However, indicate to me the areas of coordination and joint action between us and you. Did the Oslo agreement solve or increase your problems? What is the percentage of unemployment on your side?

'Arafat answered: 58 percent.

Al-Asad asked: What was the percentage before the redeployment?

'Arafat said: 36 percent. Our debts now stand at \$124 million. We lose \$7 million daily due to the closure of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Most of the donor nations did not fulfill their pledges. We received only small handouts of the promised assistance.

Al-Asad asked: Does your Legislative Council, which you wanted to be a substitute for the Palestine National Council, have the authority to draw up legislation and adopt laws freely and away from Israel's will?

'Arafat answered: Thus far, all legislation should be referred to the Israeli side for approval or rejection within 30 days.

President al-Asad said: Despite this difficult situation you are facing, you regrettably strike against your people and relentlessly arrest and track down the Islamists.

'Arafat answered: We do not track them down in their capacity as Islamists, but rather against the backdrop of security violations that cripple the Palestinian Authority's plans.

Khaddam commented by saying: In fact, you are arresting them, Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], because they are Islamists who bravely stand against the continuation of the Israeli occupation. Your prisons are filled with thousands of detainees from the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement and the Islamic Jihad Movement, who were arrested not because they are against the authority, but rather because they are against the occupation. You are pursuing them according to the orders and whims of the occupation. I do not know how you will encounter Netanyahu while you arrest the Islamists.

Al-Asad said: Confronting the Islamic fundamentalists is a big mistake that no Arab official should make. Some time ago, Richard Murphy advised me to confront the fundamentalists saying that they constitute a threat to us and to the world. However, I rejected his "advice" categorically and told him that we and the Islamists are in one trench against the Israeli occupier. I said that we do not consider them terrorists and do not believe that they jeopardize national and pan-Arab regimes. Moreover, I said, you in the United States consider anyone who prays, fasts, or recites the Koran a fundamentalist. I fast and pray. Do you consider me a fundamentalist?

Throughout the entire meeting, 'Arafat was busy scratching the back of his head. This went on for quite a while until al-Asad asked him: What is wrong, does your head hurt you? 'Arafat answered: "No I am only adjusting my head dress."

Palestinian Finance Minister Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, who was present at the meeting, spoke about the difficult living conditions in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. He asked al-Asad to extend assistance to the people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip by giving them the surplus of Syrian wheat and barley.

Education Minister Yasir 'Amr asked the Syrian side to recognize the General Certificate of Education issued by the self-rule authority and the Palestinian passport. He also asked them to allocate more seats for students of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip at the Syrian universities.

Mahmud al-Khalidi, PLO representative in Syria, told Yasir 'Amr that the Syrian universities already receive a large number of Palestinian students. He added that the number of Palestinian students in Syria amounts to 25,000.

Al-Asad said he was ready to hold a closed session with 'Arafat if he wishes. The latter, however, said he preferred to continue the open meeting, possibly because he did not want the Israelis to accuse him of dealing secretly with Syria behind their back.

'Arafat briefed the conferees on his discussions with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi on Palestinian affairs and conveyed Levi's desire to meet with the Syrian foreign minister. Addressing al-Asad, 'Arafat then said that he wants to extend an official invitation in his name and on behalf of President al-Asad to the Jerusalem Committee chaired by King Hassan II, asking that a meeting be held soon in order to discuss what the Likud rulers are plotting against Arab Jerusalem. The Syrian president approved this suggestion.

Following the four-hour meeting, everybody was invited to dinner hosted by President al-Asad. While they were having dinner, [Vice President] Khaddam, who had old and friendly relations with all the Palestinian leadership figures, started to make sarcastic comments to the self-rule authority officials, particularly Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi and Yasir 'Amr. He said to al-Nashashibi: Come on Abu-Zuhdi [al-Nashashibi], you leveled the worst accusations against us when we in Syria accepted Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Where are we and where are you now?

Faruq Qaddumi briefed Khalid al-Fahum, [former speaker of the Palestine National Council] and the leaders of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command on the minutes of the al-Asad-'Arafat meeting. AL-MAJD obtained a copy of the lengthy minutes, which it summarized and edited so that it would be publishable.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Returns From al-'Aqabah, To Visit Cairo 10 Aug

JN0708204496 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1800 GMT 7 Aug 96

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat said his talks with Jordan's King Husayn, which were held in al-'Aqabah today, were extremely important, constructive, and fruitful. The president was answering reporters' questions upon returning to the presidential headquarters in Gaza this evening from al-'Aqabah, which he visited early this morning. The president met with King Husayn to discuss issues of Arab concern. These talks are part of the framework of Arab coordination and cooperation to confront obstacles that block the peace process.

President 'Arafat said that he and the Jordanian monarch discussed the details of the peace process and the mechanism to push it forward. With respect to Netanyahu's government decision allowing settlement expansion, President 'Arafat said that he discussed this issue in detail.

President 'Arafat was accompanied by Mahmud 'Abbas, secretary of the PLO Executive Committee, and Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation.

As soon as he arrived in Gaza, Dr. Sha'th announced that President 'Arafat will meet with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Cairo on 10 August in order to continue cooperation efforts, push the peace process forward, coordinate efforts, and realize Arab solidarity. He pointed out that President 'Arafat will preside over a meeting of the Fatah Central Committee on 10 and 11 August in Cairo to discuss the latest developments in light of recent events. Dr. Sha'th said this Fatah Central Committee meeting is extremely important.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat on Jerusalem, Settlement Decision

JN0708195996 *Gaza Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation Television Network in Arabic*
1833 GMT 7 Aug 96

[Speech by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in Ramallah, West Bank, at a rally of Palestinian citizens from Nabulus and Ramallah on 6 August—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O brothers, beloved ones, the knights of Palestine. O the flames of Palestine, you have always been and will always remain the buttress

of the hope of your Palestinian people. The mountain of fire [Nabulus] [applause]. Yes, the Mountain of Fire, will always remain the lair of the heroes and revolutionaries, the lair of the intifadah, the lair of the [Palestinian] National Authority, the lair of the State of Palestine, with Jerusalem as its capital.

Brothers, undoubtedly we are passing through an important, historic turning point. There is no doubt that it is difficult. The Israeli Government has made a serious decision; namely, releasing the beast of the settlements, with all the serious dimensions suggested by this phrase, not only against us, the Palestinian people, but against the entire peace process. This serious decision is considered a violation of agreements signed between us and them—agreements that were clear in the signed accords. After these agreements, we agreed to freeze the settlements. We agreed that the settlement activity will be discussed in the last phase, in the last phase of negotiations. You are aware and you remember that the final-status negotiations began on 5 May, before their election battle. We insisted on holding them, because this had been agreed upon. I say that these negotiations include four basic points: settlement activity, refugees, borders, and the sacred and basic cause: holy Jerusalem. [applause]

They must stop the settlements from expanding until this is threshed out in the final-status negotiations. I say this because I am surprised by these decisions. First they insist on isolating the city of Jerusalem, then Jerusalem will be devoured. I would like to tell them: You are wrong. If a decision by a government or a mayor can devour Jerusalem, then we say this is Jerusalem, the first Qibla [direction to which Muslims turn in prayer] and the third holiest mosque. This is where the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, journeyed to heaven by night. This is the cradle of Jesus, peace be upon him. Jerusalem is the capital of the State of Palestine. Yes, it is the capital of the State of Palestine.

Jerusalem is an integral part of the land that was occupied in 1967. Resolution 242 applies to it. We agreed to go to Madrid based on the land-for-peace principle and the implementation of Resolution 242. This means the land that was occupied, as provided for in Resolution 242 — the foremost of which is the Arab and the Palestinian land and holy Jerusalem.

Therefore, I say to them that there are no decisions. God has decreed that this holy Jerusalem is the capital of the state of Palestine. I say this here in Ramallah, to my loved ones in Ramallah who are hosting this rally that is staged by the residents of the Mountain of Fire — who assert in every step and every decision that Palestine is supported by men; In this land are a people

of exceeding strength. [part of Koranic verse] I did not say this; it is the almighty God who said that "In this land are a people of exceeding strength." Who are the people of exceeding strength? It is you indeed. [crowd cheers]

May God bless you. We all love Palestine. It seems that they still do not know that all their calculations are wrong. They are not aware of these people of exceeding strength. The land on which we stand is our Arab land; it speaks Arabic. Therefore, I say that the great objective is protecting the nascent Palestinian entity and the Palestinian dream and march. Who else will do this? Yes, I ask you before God and history to shoulder this historic, religious, and cultural responsibility. I say to you that you are the protectors of this Palestinian dream and embryonic entity.

My brothers, yes you are the protectors of this Palestinian dream. There have been many attempts to conspire against the Palestinian dream, but they — the Israelis and those who conspire with them — have forgotten that there are people of exceeding strength on this land. The slingshots and banners of the Palestinian dream will continue to flutter over the land on which we are standing. Despite all that we are suffering, we are proud that we are a vanguard of this Arab nation. We are stationed along the front lines, defending the aspirations, hopes, and future of this Arab nation. We are standing on the front lines, alongside all strugglers in this Arab nation.

Therefore, brothers, we find certain things here or there, but this does not harm or reduce our faith in the Arab nation, of which we are an integral part. The Arab nation has history and will have a future and glory, and we are an integral part of it. Therefore, be united, brothers. [A famous Arab poet said:] Be united, sons, like sticks tied together; sticks are easily broken if they are taken one by one. [applause]

We are an integral part of the Arab nation, and we are at the front lines, defending it. Therefore, we must always be, as ever, soldiers for this Arab nation. We are defending the most sacred place, my brothers. We are defending the land that God has blessed. Glory to Allah, who did take his servant for a journey by night from the sacred mosque to the farthest mosque, whose precincts we did bless [Koranic verse], [Arafat repeats] which we did bless, which we did bless, which we did bless. [applause]

Yes we are defending the place that God blessed. He blessed his mosque, from which his servant, Muhammad, peace be upon him, made his nocturnal journey to heaven.

Therefore, we must live up to our responsibilities. Living up to my responsibility, I address you from my heart, from my conscience, and I stress national unity, national unity, national unity, national unity. [applause]

We must work to strengthen and affirm national unity. I am aware that there have been many attempts from outside to affect our national unity. But we are a firm mountain that does not respect the passing wind. ['Arafat repeats preceding sentence three times] [applause]

Here I tell my brother Ghassan [al-Shak'ah, mayor of Nabulus]: Abu-Walid, we are together side by side, starting from here, from the Mountain of Fire. God willing, we will [one day] pray at al- Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. [applause; 'Arafat holds al-Shak'ah's hand and raises it in a sign of solidarity].

We have to move ahead, firmer and stronger and with more faith, to build the Palestinian state. [applause] Let us tell our martyrs, led by the prince of martyrs, Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], [applause] and let us tell our noble detainees, led by our esteemed shaykh, Ahmad Yasin, that our pledge will remain the same: to continue to build the state brick by brick and site by site and to continue to write its history until the state is established and until the Palestinian flag is raised in Jerusalem, the capital of the state of Palestine, by one of the children of the intifadah. [applause]

Palestinian Affairs: Sha'th—Netanyahu Uses Pronouncements as 'Means of Evasion'

TA0708153496 Ramallah AL-AYYAM in Arabic
6 Aug 96 pp 1, 18

[Report by 'Izzat Daraghmah]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Bethlehem — Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, has described Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's statements in Amman as "vague and deceptive." [passage omitted]

Sha'th asked: What has Netanyahu done since his meeting with President Husni Mubarak, and what has he achieved except decisions by his government to intensify settlement activity and confiscate more land? We have not yet seen anything in practice from Netanyahu's promises in Cairo. No positive developments have taken place either in the sphere of the closure or other spheres. And what does Netanyahu mean by negotiations on redeployment in Hebron?

Sha'th stressed that it is impossible to renegotiate what has been negotiated and agreed. Every state is supposed to respect what it has signed. Netanyahu said in Cairo that his government will respect the agreements. In

addition to Palestine and Israel, those agreements were signed by 17 other countries.

Sha'th added: We expected Netanyahu to affirm and declare in Amman that he will evacuate Hebron and that he is committed to the agreements and their implementation within a specific timeframe. How long should we give him a chance?

Sha'th said that Netanyahu is making statements as a means of evasion, slowly and gradually trying to slip through the door in order to deceive world public opinion and eventually achieve what the Israeli Government, his party, and the parties allied with him have talked about. He believes that he will not incite public opinion with such statements.

Sha'th noted that giving the Israeli defense minister the right to make the final decision on settlements does not constitute a danger on the surface but that this is actually an extremely dangerous step. As the Palestinian National Authority, we view this as one of the recent and extremely grave Israeli initiatives.

Sha'th described the Israeli Government's decision, made at the beginning of this week, to unfreeze settlement activity as something that was not exaggerated by the media but rather something that is, in fact and without exaggeration, a real danger.

On a different level, Sha'th referred to the Israeli campaign targeting the Arab and Palestinian identity of Jerusalem, especially the move to close the office of Palestinian Legislative Council member Hatim 'Abd-al-Qadir, who is using part of his home to receive Jerusalemites. Sha'th added that this is a mistaken concern on the part of the Israeli minister of internal security. Moreover, this move contravenes the law and the agreements signed between the Palestinian and Israeli sides. Deputy 'Abd-al-Qadir was elected by the Palestinian residents of Jerusalem in accordance with the agreements. Why are they preventing his constituents from visiting and meeting with him?

Sha'th added: If Netanyahu is demanding the closure of all Palestinian offices and institutions in Arab Jerusalem, it would follow that all the Israeli offices in the city must be closed as well. This is a misrepresentation of the peace process. Netanyahu said two days ago: "How can you prevent us from building settlements in the West Bank while the Palestinians are building their homes in West Bank villages?" If this is the case, he should have said that he will allow the Palestinians to build in Tel Aviv also. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs: 'Abd-Rabbuh Says Netanyahu Promoting 'Lies'

JN0608101596 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
0415 GMT 6 Aug 96

[Telephone interview with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Palestinian minister of culture and information and member of the PLO Executive Committee, by Za'al Abu-Rukbah in Jericho on 6 August; from "A New Day" program—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Abu-Rukbah] With me on the line I have Culture Minister Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh. Good morning, brother Yasir.

['Abd-Rabbuh] Good morning, you are most welcome.

[Abu-Rukbah] Dear brother, yesterday, you must have followed the joint news conference held by King Husayn and the Israeli prime minister. You must have heard the intransigent and inflexible statements made by the Israeli prime minister. To begin with, how would you comment on Netanyahu's visit to Amman?

['Abd-Rabbuh] I cannot make any comment before I learn of the actual results of the visit. Nonetheless, the statements Netanyahu made at the news conference show that he once again promoted lies and deception on a large scale. He is handling the Palestinian-Israeli agreements in a way that is both ridiculous and infuriating. With regard to Jerusalem, he cited a provision enshrined in the agreements stating that the status of Jerusalem must not be changed. However, he interpreted this to mean that the status quo of Jerusalem, namely, its occupation, must be maintained, and that the Israeli control of the city must remain unchanged. Meanwhile, the correct interpretation of this is clear. In the letters of invitation to the Madrid conference, and also in the agreements signed, the provision means that the features of Jerusalem should remain unchanged, that there should be no efforts to Judaize the city, and that there should be no settlement activity in Jerusalem. This is the correct interpretation of the provision regarding Jerusalem enshrined in the agreements signed and the letters of invitation to the Madrid conference. Netanyahu engaged in the policy of promoting lies and deception previously. Regarding the settlements, Netanyahu said the Palestinians have the right to build houses, whereas settlers did not have this right. This is the racist lie he promoted when his cabinet announced the decision to lift the settlement freeze. This is a flagrant racist and deceptive lie that smacks of utter contempt for all the commitments enshrined in the agreements signed. Netanyahu is using the method he believes to be successful. He uses sweet words that do not change the essence of his policies, which are extremist, intransigent, and racist.

[Abu-Rukbah] But regarding Jerusalem, he was very clear. He said Jerusalem will never be divided.

['Abd-Rabbuh] Sir, I deem strange the confusion created by some Arab and international analysts and politicians regarding this issue. The issue has nothing to do with shedding crocodile tears over the division or unity of Jerusalem. The key issue is that the city is occupied. As for future relations, whether there should be open borders or something of the sort, this is something that can be discussed at the negotiating table. The problem right now is that Jerusalem is occupied and isolated from the remaining Palestinian territories, and that Jerusalem is suffering from a closure that keeps it isolated from the remaining Palestinian territories. This is the issue that must be discussed. The issue has nothing to do with future relations. Netanyahu is resorting to lies and deception once again. He claimed that the adherents of the three monotheistic religions will be given access to holy shrines in the city. The issue is depicted as if it were an exclusively religious affair, in which adherents of the three faiths will be allowed to perform religious rites in Jerusalem. The issue is not confined to the future status of Jerusalem. It has to do with the current status of Jerusalem, with the measures taken to isolate Jerusalem from the Palestinian territories, with the closure of Jerusalem, with the settlement activity in Jerusalem, and with the attempt to change the features of Jerusalem. This is the issue that must be addressed clearly. It has nothing to do with Jerusalem being an open city or not. What could be crucial in deciding this issue is the occupation or freedom of the city. When the occupation of the city is dismantled, it will be possible to have open borders.

[Abu-Rukbah] Some analysts who followed Netanyahu's visit to Amman expected Netanyahu to announce a substantial move during the Amman visit. Regrettably, nothing of this materialized. He merely announced that an additional 5,000 Palestinians will be allowed to work in Israel.

['Abd-Rabbuh] Frankly, this is a national humiliation. Netanyahu continues to inflict on us, as if our people are thousands of cattle which are released whenever he visits a capital. In Washington, he allowed several thousands of Palestinians to go to their jobs in Israel. He did the same in Cairo and Amman. This is the way of racists. This seems to be part of the public relations game he relishes, and which he learned in the United States. He thinks this could ease the Arab and international reaction to his policies. This is not the heart of the matter. The heart of the matter is that Israel is enforcing an economic blockade on our people, and that there are economic restrictions. The agreements should not be handled through news conferences, the

radio, and statements, as he has been doing thus far. The agreements need to be complied with. The Israelis are procrastinating over the issue of Hebron. They have made statements to the effect that they want to amend the agreement on the Hebron redeployment. There is nothing to indicate they are serious in their desire to sit at the negotiating table and discuss the implementation of the agreements, whether regarding the outstanding issues in the interim agreement, such as the redeployment in Hebron and the remaining Palestinian territories, the prisoners issue, and other issues, or the resumption of the final-status talks. This is the yardstick of seriousness. Netanyahu once again sought to alleviate the anger of the Arab and international public by speaking of Israel's readiness to negotiate with Syria and achieve peace with it. Nonetheless, he has failed to address the bases of such negotiations. When he says that the negotiations must be without preconditions, he means that the negotiations should have no terms of reference. This is the basic point. It is clear that the terms of reference of the negotiations should be the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, the land-for-peace formula, and a commitment to withdraw from all occupied territories. These are the terms of reference of the peace process.

[Abu-Rukbah] Brother Yasir, you will definitely face great difficulties in dealing with a leader such as Netanyahu, especially given what you have said about Netanyahu's remarks at the joint news conference being mostly deceptive. For example, Netanyahu said yesterday that the Jerusalemites' forged identity cards have been withdrawn. I personally know, and everybody knows that the identity cards withdrawn were not forged. They belong to Palestinians residing in Jerusalem.

[Abd-Rabbuh] As I told you, the Israelis believe that deception pays. Compliance with agreements and obligations is an exception for them, and they do not demonstrate compliance unless they have to. Identity cards have been withdrawn. Our Jordanian brothers are well aware that pressure is brought to bear on some people experiencing humanitarian difficulties prior to their departure from the Palestinian territories for Jordan, in order to force them to relinquish their Jerusalem identity cards. Entire families, women, and children have had their identity cards withdrawn. The Palestinian Authority accords this issue the appropriate priority. It is following this issue. I would like to seize the opportunity and say that any case of identity card withdrawal must be reported. The help of the competent Palestinian authorities must be sought so that they may follow up on it and handle it appropriately.

[Abu-Rukbah] Brother Yasir, will there be meetings with the Jordanian leadership soon to discuss the outcome of Netanyahu's Amman visit?

[Abd-Rabbuh] This is a possibility. Thus far, nothing has been decided, I believe. I think that such a meeting could be held within the next few days, especially within the framework of the understanding on continued coordination and cooperation between us and the fraternal Arab states, particularly those concerned with the peace process.

[Abu-Rukbah] Thank you, brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, minister of culture. Good day.

[Abd-Rabbuh] Good day, and you are most welcome. Thank you.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Abd-al-Qadir Signs Declaration; Office To Remain Open

TA0708191696 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 7 Aug 96

[Correspondent in the territories Yoram Kohen video report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The affair of Hatim 'Abd-al-Qadir's office in East Jerusalem is over for the moment. In contacts held today it was decided that the office will remain open, while 'Abd-al-Qadir promised not to work in it in his capacity as a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council. Our correspondent in the territories Yoram Kohen reports:

[Begin recording] [Kohen] 'Abd-al-Qadir signed the declaration. The affair that featured in the news almost a week is over tonight. 'Abd-al-Qadir's lawyer formulated an agreement with the legal adviser of the Internal Security Ministry, Minister Qahalani endorsed it, and 'Abd-al-Qadir's office will continue to operate under the following restriction included in the declaration he signed: My office is not an official office. It does not represent the Palestinian Authority [PA] or the Palestinian Legislative Council but is a private office.

[Abd-al-Qadir] We reached a good agreement. I operate within the law, I am not opposed to the law, and I am not opposed to the Oslo agreements. I only help people within the boundaries of the law.

[Kohen] In other words, this will not be a PA office.

[Abd-al-Qadir] Not at all.

[Unidentified lawyer] I believe the Egyptian mediation proved successful, and I hope the affair is now over. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Palestinian Affairs: Hebron Mayor Protests Plan To Leave IDF in Arab Sectors

TA0808110096 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0905 GMT 8 Aug 96

[Report by Yoni Ben-Menahem]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinians are taking a firm stance against the possibility that the Hebron redeployment agreement will be amended. Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordekhay will make his fourth tour of Hebron next week, and he will present the government stand on the issue in his meeting with Yasir 'Arafat. Wasting no time, Hebron notables are launching a counterattack. They will ask to be allowed to participate in the 'Arafat-Mordekhay meeting as advisers.

Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah says the agreement on Hebron redeployment was achieved after protracted negotiations, in which the Israeli side was represented by senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] commanders and various defense experts. All the security factors were taken into consideration, he says, and any change of the agreement will mean a collapse of the agreement.

[Begin al-Natshah recording, in English] How it can be redeployment and patrols? We think that the agreement was taking in consideration the security of the settlers in the city, and the area where the settlers remain the Israeli Army will remain. The other: It's [word indistinct] that the Israeli Army redeployed. [end recording]

How can it be redeployment if the army patrols the Arab neighborhoods? We believe that the agreement accounted for the settlers' security and settled the matter of the areas in which settlers and IDF troops are to remain, he says. We will not agree to patrols in Arab neighborhoods, al-Natshah stresses.

Referring to the plan to link Qiryat Arba' with the Jewish settlement in Hebron, al-Natshah says it is incomprehensible. There is a road from Qiryat Arba' to the Jewish settlements, and it is enough. If the Jews plan to build houses along this axis, it means they will raze Arab houses, which will cause an escalation in the city.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Orders Release of Dozens of Hamas Activists

TA0708141896 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1400 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Yasir 'Arafat has ordered the release of several dozen Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists held in jails in the Palestinian Authority. The step is intended to allay tensions in the

territories in the wake of the violent incidents in Nabulus and Tulkarm.

Palestinian Affairs: Hamas Unmoved by Change of Regime in Israel

MM0508113096 London FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH
in Arabic Aug 96 pp 19-21

[Interview with Khalid Mish'al, deputy chief of the Hamas Political Bureau, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] Political circles have accused you of contributing, in one way or another, to Netanyahu's victory by your martyrdom operations. What would you say to that?

[Mish'al] It seems that the shock that hit those who bet on the success of Peres, their ally and the pivot of their hopes, has driven them to seek other explanations for Peres' sudden downfall and the upsetting of their calculations as a result of that downfall.

Objectivity and logic should have made them seek the true facts behind the changes and the interactions that have taken place within Zionist society and led in turn to the phenomenon of Netanyahu and his more extreme current. I would not describe it as extreme because all the Zionist political forces are extremist, since they practice aggressive occupation in Palestine and seek to realize the Zionist dreams at the expense of the rights of our Palestinian people.

The state of fear and concern and the feeling of loss of security coupled with the bloodthirsty, killing obsession and rancorous aggressive nature of Zionist society have prompted Netanyahu to further extremism in tackling the various issues connected with the conflict in the region, and consequently to the rejection of Peres' policies and practices vis-a-vis these issues, despite the fact that they did not revolve in the sphere of true concessions inasmuch as they revolved in the sphere of evasive tactics aimed at preserving Zionist rights, despite the actual enormous successes that Peres achieved for the Zionist plan in terms of penetrating the Palestinian and Arab arenas and spreading Zionist influence and hegemony over the region through openness and political and economic relations.

Thus Netanyahu's victory was an expression of the occupying Zionist enemy's tendency toward greater extremism, rigidity, and rejection of Palestinian and Arab rights.

As for us in Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], we have repeatedly affirmed that the operations of our holy strugglers in the al-Qassam Battalions and their heroic

suicide exploits fall within the context of the natural right of movement and our people's legitimate right to resist occupation and respond to its crimes and acts of aggression against our people, our sanctities, and our land.

Hamas has never been a party to the formula of Zionist elections. It was not concerned whether Netanyahu had triumphed and Peres had lost or vice versa. This is because Hamas refuses to base its vision and future course on factors that it does not control and on probabilities that are dependent on the enemy.

It would be an act of the utmost impotence for us to await a solution and pin hopes on our enemy, leaving the reins of initiative in his hands to draw the future course in the region. This, regrettably, is exactly what has been done by the Palestinian Authority (PA) and many of the Arab sides in the region.

It is true that Hamas' martyr operations and the steadfastness of the Lebanese resistance in southern Lebanon under the leadership of Hizballah against the latest Zionist aggression have aroused the Zionists' fears and caused them to panic and to feel insecure and so decide to support Netanyahu. But the [Hamas] operations were intended not to influence the election outcome but to resist occupation and to respond to its aggression and its crimes.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] How do you view the settlement process following the advent of Netanyahu, particularly on the Palestinian process, and his negative statements with regard to the negotiations about the final stage?

[Mish'al] Despite the fact that both Peres and Netanyahu are in agreement on the realization of Zionist interests and the Zionist entity's strategic objectives, there are some differences between the two men with regard to the means and tactics. These differences will inevitably be reflected in the course of negotiations be it on the Palestinian track or the other Arab tracks.

Some in the Palestinian and Arab arenas have tried to spread a spirit of reassurance about the future of the settlement following Netanyahu's success. They have also called for him to be given a second chance and not to base positions on the electoral manifestos he announced during the electoral battle. But these reassurances and calls for patience seem naive and self-deceiving in the light of Netanyahu's persistence with his program and his natural vision of a settlement and its priorities in both the Palestinian and Arab arenas as well as in the light of his rejection of the principle of land for peace, which was the basis on which the settlement process was launched at Madrid, and his replacement

of this by the slogan of peace for peace or security for peace. Furthermore, Netanyahu's statements during his recent visit to Washington have frustrated and blown up the fantasies entertained by those who placed all their eggs in the basket of Zionist intentions and the basket of American credibility.

It is clear that the Oslo accord is likely to face impediments and retraction in the formula agreed upon at Oslo. Some of the matters pertaining to its first stage are still unimplemented, such as the redeployment of forces in Hebron. The Netanyahu Government has now begun to concentrate on what it calls the Palestinian Authority's excesses, particularly with regard to the latter's activities in Jerusalem, and to move toward the closure of a number of Palestinian institutions in the city. This means that the enemy government will spend a long time exhausting, exploiting, and blackmailing the PA, overwhelming it with demands and conditions and preoccupying it with many secondary matters before thinking of entering into final-stage negotiations.

Like Shamir, his predecessor in the Likud leadership, Netanyahu favors the policy of time-wasting and procrastination so as to bring pressure to bear on the Palestinian side while the Zionist enemy embarks on the creation of many new facts on the ground, particularly with regard to the question of settlements, the confiscation of land, and the construction of by-pass roads. Perhaps the recently announced extensive new plans for building settlements, aiming to triple the number of Jewish settlers, provide an indication of that policy.

All the aforementioned point to the expected future of the final-stage negotiations on the Palestinian track. It is a future that is shrouded in a great deal of ambiguity, obduracy, and the imposition of Zionist priorities in a decisive and total manner. This is what was expressed in advance by Netanyahu's negative statements concerning the state, Palestinian sovereignty, settlements, and Jerusalem. Indeed, the man's policy goes as far as the assumption by the occupation authorities of responsibility for security even over the Authority area. The proposed Likud solution on the Palestinian track is no more than limited administrative rule over the people but not over the land, though at this stage the enemy government favors the Jordanian option, but with sovereignty over the land remaining in the hands of the Zionist occupants themselves.

Netanyahu could be forced or could perhaps attempt to show some limited degree of flexibility in his statements and tactics. But we believe that this will only be a means for maneuvering, evading the issue, and trying to gain time. What will actually take place on the ground of reality will be governed by that man's vision and

conviction and by the nature of the program around which the alliance of rightist, religious and extremist forces that form his government rallies.

This current state of affairs affirms the gravity of the error, indeed the sin, committed by members of the PA in marching along the Oslo road, squandering our people's most basic rights, and placing themselves in this dangerous and destructive impasse.

As to the future of the settlement on the Syrian track, it will not be much better in the light of Netanyahu's persistent refusal of withdrawal from the Golan.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] The PA has continued to detain a large number of members of your movement since the time of the martyrdom operations. How do you view this matter and the future relationship with the PA in the light of Netanyahu's assumption of power in the Zionist entity?

[Mish'al] The PA committed a major crime against our people when it confiscated their freedoms and rights, flouted their dignity and humanity, and placed their best sons in prisons and detention camps where it exposed them to barbaric torture and flagrant violations of human rights. The PA has detained over 1,500 sons of the Hamas movement, of whom about 1,000 are still in detention, suffering the worst forms of repression and persecution employed by Third World regimes, not for any sin or crime they have committed but because of the PA's capitulation to the Zionists' demands that it should hunt down the holy strugglers and suppress the Palestinian opposition forces. Even those who entered into dialogue with the PA and participated in the delegation that held talks with it in Cairo toward the end of last year did not escape detention, such as 'Abd-al-Pattah Dukhkan, Shaykh Hasan Yusuf and others.

The PA has destroyed all means of communications with its people and demolished all roads back to them. Today it stands stunned by the unexpected surprise of Peres' fall and finds itself in a grave dilemma: Neither is the road of settlement with the occupation open and hopeful, nor are the bridges of communication with its people there any longer, because it destroyed them by its own efforts when it threw itself into the enemy's lap and succumbed to his dictates and demands at the expense of its relations with the sons of its people.

I do not think the men of the PA are prepared to recover their relations with their people, which they have destroyed. I do not believe that they have the courage or the readiness to return to the option of resistance or even the option of taking firm and steadfast stands in the face of Zionist pressure and blackmail and

the option of bolstering national unity in the face of occupation.

Contrary to all appearances, the course that the PA is regrettably expected to follow now will be one of more submission to Zionist blackmail and new dictates and of further suppression of the opposition forces, headed by Hamas, and the pursuit of the holy strugglers to prevent them from exercising their right to resist the occupation, on the basis of the PA's hope that by doing so it can appease the Netanyahu government, affirm its good intentions toward it, and prove its ability to serve Zionist security demands. This was expressed in the statements of more than one Palestinian security official, such as Muhammad Dahlan and Amin al-Hindi, following Netanyahu's victory.

The future of relations between Hamas and the PA, indeed between the Palestinian people and the PA, do not look reassuring. This is because the PA has pawned them in favor of its relations with the enemy, subjected them to Zionist attitudes and priorities, and placed the enemy's interests and demands above the interests of our people, their national unity, and their social cohesion.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] You have spoken of a great many human rights violations by the Autonomous Rule Authority against Palestinian society and against members of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad. How great have these violations been, and what is your response to them?

[Mish'al] In my reply to the preceding question I might have spoken of the Autonomous Rule Authority's transgressions against the Palestinians and violation of their rights. Hamas issued a memorandum about these violations and the crimes of torture that have been and continue to be committed by that authority in its prisons against hundreds of our people's sons, of Hamas members, and of our brothers in the Islamic Jihad — indeed against every opposition raised and against all defenders of Palestinian human rights.

These violations have included mass arrests, barbaric acts of torture to the extent of causing permanent physical damage, rape, violation of the sanctity of people's homes, and attacks on our people's national and Islamic institutions, which had been the source of our people's support and steadfastness at the time when Authority and Organization [PLO] funds used to go and continue to go into the pockets and private accounts of its henchmen and be spent on their buffoonery and immoral activities. The Authority's violations have also included silencing people's voices, denying freedoms, and hounding people expressing opposite views whether in the press or from the pulpits of mosques. This is

in addition to establishing direct security coordination between its own and the enemy's security machinery to hound, arrest and physically liquidate holy strugglers. There are several flagrant examples of this, including the martyrdom of Engineer Yahaya 'Ayyash and Kamal Kahil and the arrest of struggler Hasan Salamah. We do not think that our people have forgotten the massacre of the Filastin Mosque in the Gaza Strip, which was carried out by the Authority's men.

The Authority's crimes and violations have gone so far beyond all limits that it has become difficult for Palestinians to explain the reason behind them other than as the implementation of a Zionist plan aimed at destroying the Palestine people, striking at their national entity and social fabric, squandering their achievements, and driving them to the brink of a civil war which would devour everything.

Those who are carrying out this plan are well known to our people whatever positions they hold in the Authority and the security apparatus. They are criminal butchers who have linked their own destinies to that of the Zionist occupation. They and the other lackeys of the Zionist occupation are the ones responsible for the loss of Palestinians rights, the destruction of Palestinian hope, and the placing of their own private interests and the enemy's interests above the interests and cause of their people.

As to Hamas' response to these violations, it consists in greater determination to march along the road of holy struggle and resistance to the occupation, because that is the only road open to the honorable and true holy strugglers and fighters who are anxious to bring the ship of the long Palestinian struggle to the shores of their hopes and true objectives of liberation, freedom, and full sovereignty over Palestinian territory.

Our response to these violations also includes a greater anxiety to safeguard our people's national unity and a plea to our struggling people to call the Authority to account, stop its violations and crimes, and expose the legitimacy it claims to possess. Our people, who have offered so many sacrifices, carried out so many heroic feats, and put up such legendary steadfastness in the face of the Zionist occupation and its crimes..., deserve honor and not degradation. They deserve to enjoy the best and highest degrees of freedom, democracy, and human rights and not this tragic situation.

Our people's confidence in our movement is high. We do not doubt for one single moment that our people will align themselves with what is honorable and the sincere and will abandon the gladiators. As history has shown, peoples have a great capacity for patience, but they are severe in calling renegades to account.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] How much of a problem is the division between those on the inside [of Palestinian territory] and those on the outside within the Hamas movement? Are there any real differences of opinion between those on the inside and those on the outside? If so, how serious are those differences?

[Mish'al] There is no problem of inside and outside within the Hamas movement. It is only a problem manufactured by the Authority's information machine, its mouthpieces, and its instruments for manufacturing lies and suspicion. The Authority truly longs to see such a problem arise and exerts all efforts and uses all mean methods to create such a problem, notably by exerting enormous pressure, committing flagrant violations, and carrying out barbaric acts of torture against our movement's members and symbols in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

But, thank God, the facts are different. True, we have a multiplicity of views and interpretations. True, also, we have free and open dialogue within the Movement and within its leading institutions, ours being a consultative movement which guarantees freedom of opinion and which allows the other opinion to have room within its ranks.

Furthermore, the complex and difficult conditions through which the Palestinian cause in general and the Hamas movement in particular are passing prompt the movement's leaders and symbols to try their best to tackle these conditions and to seek the best options and ways. This state of affairs requires — within the framework of our movement, which is one of consultation and not of one of a single leader who accepts no opinion other than his own — a responsible dialogue on the level of the leaders within the movement to get to the truth and to what serves the public interest of the cause, of the people, and of the movement. In the end, everyone aligns behind the views of the majority within the leading institutions. This, however, does not signify conflicts or disputes, as the Authority's media try to depict the situation.... This is a healthy situation which constitutes part of the respected traditions that characterize our struggle movement.

Even when any of its members departs from its positions and policies, the movement always deals with such matters through its specialized channels and organizational machinery. The view of the movement's leading institution remains the view accepted and practiced in the field. This is a natural phenomenon in movements, forces, and parties.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] Is there a new line being set for the armed resistance in the light of the new development of events and in the light of 'Arafat's likely

intensification of his security measures out of fear of Netanyahu?

[Mish'al] The movement's policy with regard to the continuation of the armed resistance to occupation is constant and continuing and has not changed. There has been no change that would necessitate the introduction of any changes in this policy. Has the occupation ended, so that the resistance should stop? Has Jerusalem been returned? Have our people attained their own independent state and sovereignty? Have our people returned from their remote exiles to their land and homeland?

Indeed, the advent of the more extreme Likud government necessitates the deepening and assertion of the resistance option. The arrogance and bluster that Netanyahu has been showing in his way of dealing with Palestinian rights and Arab and Muslim rights demand the establishment of a strong and solid Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic stand as a response to him and as a way of saving for our nation some vestiges of its dignity and honor. The Zionist haughtiness and bluster in words and deeds requires a counter in terms of Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic cohesion, sense of pride, and solidity and strength in word and likewise in action.

We in Hamas have been performing this duty with confidence and pride. Netanyahu's arrogance, bluster, haughtiness, and threats will only help to intensify our pride, our aloofness, and our determination along the course of struggle and resistance.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] What do you think of the Cairo summit and the Arab stance in general following Netanyahu's accession? What are the results of your contacts with the various Arab sides in the light of the new situation, particularly in regard to your relations with the Palestinian Authority?

[Mish'al] The Cairo summit was a positive step. It was a starting point of awakening and firmness on the horizon of the official Arab bulwark. We encourage all movements within the nation toward steadfastness in the face of Zionist hegemony. We greatly value the efforts of Egypt, Syria, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which have tried to create an Arab axis to ease the rush [toward normalization] and the normalization plans.... This is a step in the right direction. But in our estimation it is not sufficient. What is wanted is not only a movement to lessen the collapse and achieve a limited, temporary steadfastness. What is wanted is the formulation of a strategy for steadfastness and overall resistance by the nation to confront the Zionist plan, its ambitions, and its dangers, which are directed against the entire nation through its land, sovereignty, wealth, unity, and security and the stability of its entities.

We in the Hamas movement consider ourselves part of the desired Arab and Islamic revival and members of the Palestinian ranks supporting our people's rights and objectives. We offer our efforts for the building of the nation's plan to counter the Zionist plan. We welcome all efforts exerted for Arab, Palestinian and Islamic cooperation and coordination on the level of resistance to the occupation, to Zionist hegemony, and to actions detracting from Palestinian and Arab rights.

In this context, we in the Hamas movement have conducted several contacts with a number of Arab and Palestinian sides in the hope that our contacts would find a response and succeed in serving the interests of our cause and our nation.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] In the light of the recent developments in the case of Dr. Musa Abu Marzuq [Hamas Political Bureau Chief now under arrest in the United States], the likelihood of his being handed over to the occupation authorities still appears strong. How far have your efforts gone in this matter? What developments you expect in this regard?

[Mish'al] The American prejudice in favor of the Zionist enemy seems to have become open and flagrant. Today it has become so abominably blatant that it no longer leaves any margin for difference between the two sides' positions. Dr. Musa's very arrest provides an example of this prejudice. The decision of the racist American judge to hand over Dr. Musa Abu Marzuq to the Zionist enemy has come as consecration of this alignment with the Zionist enemy and of the American stance's hostility to our Palestinian people, the Hamas movement, and all defenders of and fighters for freedom.

We had feared Brother Musa's speedy handover prior to the Zionist elections within the framework of the American Administration's support for Peres. The likelihood of such a handover does still exist. It looks as if the American Administration wants to use this issue as a card to pressure and exhaust the Hamas movement. The American Administration has thus placed itself in a position of collision and confrontation with all sons of our Palestinian people and all the Arab and Islamic arenas which sympathize with and support the Hamas movement and Dr. Musa and which are rebelling against the American Administration's biased and aggressive stances.

We have been pursuing this issue through legal channels, by submitting an appeal to the American courts, as well as through the various political, mass, and information fields. In this regard I call on the American Administration to speedily release Dr. Musa Abu Marzuq, who has done nothing wrong and committed no violation against the United States. He is only a man defend-

ing his people's right to freedom and independence. He is a politician with a just cause. I call on the Arab and Islamic countries to exert all the means of pressure they possess on the American Administration to secure his release.

I renew my call to the Arab and Islamic peoples, movements, institutions, and individuals to do all they can in this regard.

In the final analysis the people are always stronger than the custodians of oppression in the world. The justice of our cause is stronger than the oppression of the Zionist occupation and America's support for it. Our confidence in the attainment of victory and the liberation of our usurped land will continue strongly.... When darkness intensifies and pressures mount, that is a sign of the impending dawn and the closeness of victory.... If any ask when it will be, tell them it will not be long [Koranic verse].

Palestinian Affairs: West Bank Hamas Cold-Shoulders Visiting Gaza Hamas Group

MM0808095196 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
8 Aug 96 p 5

[Report by Jamal Khashuqi: "Hamas Gaza Delegation Gets Cool Reception From Hamas in the West Bank"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The current difference of opinion among the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) was reflected in the unfriendly reception given to a delegation of leaders of Hamas in Gaza on a visit to the West Bank.

Palestinian sources in Ramallah contacted by telephone by AL-HAYAH, said that Hamas leaders in the West Bank refused to meet with the delegation comprising Shaykh 'Abd-al-Fattah Dukhkan, Hasan Sham'ah, and Sayyid Abu-Musamih. The day before yesterday, the delegation visited the cities of Jerusalem, Hebron, and Ramallah and traveled yesterday to the cities in the north of the West Bank area.

Hamas sources in Ramallah said that many Islamic figures and institutions declined to meet with the delegation "because of the purpose of their visit." The sources accused the delegation of trying to persuade Hamas quarters in the West Bank to accede to the Palestinian Authority (PA's) demand to end military action against Israel and to cooperate with the PA.

This reveals a marked difference between the position of Hamas in Gaza and its position in the West Bank, despite the fact that the leaders in the delegation are the most prominent Islamic action figures in Gaza.

Palestinian Affairs: Islamic Jihad Calls For Escalation Against Israel

NC0808111096 Paris AFP in English
1113 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, Aug 8 (AFP) — The head of the fundamentalist Islamic Jihad called Thursday [8 August] for an escalation in the armed struggle against Israel and warned of an explosion of violence in the Palestinian territories.

"The Palestinian Authority is at a real dead end which will lead to a widespread explosion, and the intifada (uprising) will flare anew in all corners of the occupied territory," Ramadan 'Abdallah Shalah told AFP from his Damascus base.

"The (Israeli) enemy will not stop building settlements, so it is necessary to step up the armed struggle against Zionists and settlers to force them to withdraw," Shalah added.

The rightwing government of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu decided Friday to lift a four-year-old freeze on expanding settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Syria-based Islamic Jihad, which is violently opposed to the Palestinian autonomy accords with Israel, has claimed responsibility for several suicide bomb attacks against the Jewish state.

Shalah said his radical group had poor relations with Yasir 'Arafat's Palestinian Authority. "It's an isolated authority, allied with the Zionist occupiers. It assassinates innocent and unarmed Palestinians in the cause of Israeli security," he said.

The fundamentalist leader said there was only one way to achieve Palestinian unity and that was to "burn our bridges with the enemy, reject the (autonomy) accords and agree a programme of confrontation not alliance" with Israel.

Mounting frustration against the stalemated peace process and anger at 'Arafat's self-rule authority led to riots in the West Bank town of Tulkarm a week ago during which a Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement) militant was shot dead allegedly by Palestinian police.

Asked about the Jihad's relations with Syria, which is under pressure to rein in the 10 hardline Palestinian groups based there, Shalah said it "welcomes us as refugees whose land is occupied." "We have no official status in Syria, like our friends from Hamas and other Palestinian organisations," he said.

A senior Jordanian official said last week that Syria had arrested a dozen Palestinian militants, including

members of Islamic Jihad, suspected of planning attacks inside Jordan. But Shalah said: "None of our militants have been arrested in Damascus because they belong to our movement or because of action ordered by us."

Palestinian Affairs: Islamic Jihad Leader on Resumption of Intifadah

JN0808094296 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
0900 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Ramadan 'Abdallah, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad in Palestine, today called for resuming armed struggle to force Israel to go back on its policy. He said the intifadah will start again in the Palestinian territory.

Palestinian Affairs: Ghawshah Denies Dialogue Between Hamas and Authority

MM0708133596 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 7 Aug 96 p 3

[Report by Mufid Haddad in Amman: "Ghawshah: Dialogue Between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority Is Broken at All Levels"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, said that conditions in the self-rule areas are extremely difficult and that the Palestinian people are "reeling under the weight of both the occupation authority and the self-rule Authority," and that the storming of the Tulkarm Governorate building by the masses is an important turning point. Ghawshah stressed that some officers and elements of the self-rule police joined the demonstrators. He categorically denied the existence of any relations or contacts at any level between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority [PA], stressing that relations between both sides have been broken.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Eng. Ghawshah also said conditions are difficult because of the heavy burden of the Zionist occupation, because of the fact that the occupied areas are far apart and movement between them is difficult, and because of wide-spread unemployment and the complications of daily life. This is apparent in the relations between the people in the self-rule areas on one hand, and the self-rule Authority on the other. People are complaining about the bureaucracy, the formalities, and the lack of freedoms of expression and political action, and are also complaining about the absence of democracy and the preponderance of factions and personal interests, with life becoming unbearable because both the occupation authority and the self-rule Authority are intent on oppressing the Pales-

tinian people. Ghawshah said that "the conditions prevailing in the self-rule areas are the reasons behind last week's uprising, with matters coming to a head following the death of three martyrs in less than 36 hours, at the hands of the self-rule Authority, which makes this Authority no different from the crimes committed by the Zionist occupation."

He added: "The people's reaction in Nabulus and Tulkarm and the pelting of the Tulkarm Governorate with stones by the angry Palestinian masses is an important turning point, because these people acted out of fear for the detainees who went on a hunger strike, and after receiving the news of Martyr Muhammad al-Jumayyil's murder at the hands of the self-rule Authority's officers. This shows that matters have come to a head, and particularly that there is popular discontent in the other Palestinian areas."

Ghawshah went on to say that the Tulkarm incidents are reminiscent of the clashes between the Authority and the masses in the Gaza Strip, when the PA committed the "carnage at the Palestine Mosque less than two years ago, which resulted in many more casualties than in Tulkarm."

Ghawshah said this was due to the fact that "many Palestinian police elements refused to confront the masses in Tulkarm, preferring to remain neutral and watch the situation from the Governorate building. This was different from what happened in the Palestine Mosque when intense fire by police caused the death of many martyrs and wounded many others."

The Hamas spokesman said this was due to the fact that some noble officers and elements of the Palestinian police refused to open fire on the Palestinian masses, saying that "this is a spot of light."

He expressed his belief that "clashes between the masses in the self-rule areas and the Authority will continue" because of what he described as "this Authority's mentality which can neither recognize nor gauge the people's genuine feelings. Instead, it tries to contain any expression of anger or rage against it over fundamental issues, by raising side issues which have nothing to do with the real argument now taking place between the self-rule Authority, which has become an agent of the occupation, and the Palestinian people." Ghawshah gave as an example al-Jumayyil's death in Nabulus jail, when three officers were sentenced to prison in a hasty and bogus trial while those who ordered citizen al-Jumayyil to be tortured and disposed of have not been exposed. They also tried to blame the Tulkarm clashes on outside issues.

Chawshah categorically denied the existence of any relations or dialogue between the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, and the self-rule Authority. He said: "I speak for the Islamic Resistance Movement as an organization and a known plan. Since the Cairo dialogue with the Authority on 25 December 1995, this movement has been subjected to a long series of conspiracies, arrests, and torture," adding that there are some 1,000 Hamas detainees in the Authority's jails.

The Hamas spokesman explained that "contacts by the PA with some people who previously were with Hamas and who, for the most part, have been dismissed, does not constitute a dialogue with Hamas. It is more like a monologue between the PA and itself."

He stressed that public opinion cannot be deceived by contacts with the likes of 'Imad al-Faluji or Jamil al-Hamami, who were dismissed by the movement, or with other people who do not represent Hamas's real importance or organization.

Palestinian Affairs: PFLP-GC Statement on Political Developments

JN0608085296 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1330 GMT 5 Aug 96

[Statement issued by the Central Committee of the PFLP-GC on 3 August; place not given — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. On 3 August 1996, the Central Committee of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) held an ordinary session under the slogan "Qana Martyrs Session." The Central Committee discussed the political conditions in the Arab arena and the international developments related to them.

With a high level of responsibility, the conferees discussed the latest political developments in the national cause following the Likud Party's arrival to power in the Zionist entity. Out of their understanding of the nature of the conflict and the Zionist establishment's structure, the conferees believe that the change that took place in the Zionist entity is no more than a change of positions and does not constitute a substantive change in the enemy's policy. This policy is pursued by both the Labor and Likud parties alike, and the two parties work in accordance with the same strategy that aims primarily at imposing tutelage on our nation and paralyzing its role and effectiveness.

Based on the above, the PFLP-GC Central Committee members discussed the suspect role and the state of relinquishment and capitulation which 'Arafat's authority

is still pursuing through its unending alliance with the Zionist enemy; and through its insistence on pursuing the mujahidin and the national figures, sending them to jail, and murdering and torturing anyone who resists occupation and opposes the trend of capitulation. This policy created a state of agitation among our people inside Palestine. All signs indicate that our people, who faced with their blessed intifadah the executioners of occupation, will rebel against those who collaborate with the Zionist enemy and topple their symbols. The recent mass actions in Tulkarm and Nablus against the limited self-rule authority confirm that a new intifadah is brewing to confront the authority, which is hostile to our people.

The PFLP-GC Central Committee members discussed the Zionist maneuvers and the tactics employed by the enemy government to deal separately with Lebanon, especially following Netanyahu's Lebanon-First proposal. The conferees believe that this Zionist political action is merely a test balloon that aims to create an atmosphere of political confusion. It is also a trap to push Lebanon into the cycle of the agreements of submission and humiliation, similar to those signed with 'Arafat and Husayn. These Zionist calls are another form of the conspiracy to poison the atmosphere and prepare the ground for a new Zionist aggression against Lebanon.

The Central Committee members also discussed the dangers facing our Arab nation in the light of the Zionist-U.S. pressure, which became clear after Netanyahu's visit to the United States and the bias displayed by the United States in favor of his policy. The PFLP-GC Central Committee stresses the following:

1. The double-standards policy and the United States' submission to the Zionist lobby's influence must be confronted with an effective, real Arab solidarity, based on confronting the Zionist-U.S. program in the region. This Arab solidarity must also be based on extending support to Syria's policy, which is founded on adherence to the nation's interests, particularly the Palestine question.
2. The Zionist decision to expand settlement activities in the West Bank and Gaza, and in East Jerusalem, reveals the true nature of the Zionist policy and the Oslo agreement.

Hence, the PFLP-GC Central Committee calls for reactivating and intensifying the struggle. It urges the Arab and Islamic nation to rise to its responsibility and face up to the current dangerous situation, where the Zionists have gone as far as demanding the removal of the Dome of the Rock to rebuild the alleged temple in its place. The Arab and Islamic nation is required to take serious steps to close its ranks, thwart the Zionist scheme, and support and defend its rights and holy places.

3. The Central Committee stresses that the impotency and failure of the leadership of the limited administrative self-rule authority have been proved and the volume and extent of its responsibility for the destruction suffered by our national and pan-Arab cause have been exposed. Therefore, this leadership must stop tampering with our nation's sanctities, admit its failure, quit its plans, and leave the arena to allow our vanguard people to draw for themselves the features of their path and objectives and to pursue their struggle away from that leadership and its concessions and relinquishment of our national and pan-Arab cause.

4. The duty of supporting the Islamic and national resistance in Lebanon and Palestine will remain the logical basis and strategic option for maintaining the struggle against the Zionist enemy so as to safeguard the cause against the attempts to obliterate and marginalize it. In this regard, the Central Committee stresses the importance of preserving the national culture and the need to confront the normalization and invasion attempts with all their forms.

5. Having analyzed the mechanism that governed the work of the factions of the Alliance of Palestinian Forces, the PFLP-GC central Committee believes circumstances necessitate that the effective and vital forces reconsider their formula and program of action so as to promote this national alliance. In this regard, they will do all that is necessary toward that end and will rally all nationalist forces to return the PLO to its nationalist line as the representative of our Palestinian people at home and abroad on the basis of its charter and our people's national, historic, and militant constants.

At the end of its meeting, the PFLP-GC Central Committee noted with appreciation the Syrian leadership's principled, constant pan-Arab stand, relentless efforts to effect a better Arab position, and steadfastness and courage in the face of the U.S.-Zionist pressures. It also noted with appreciation the national and pan-Arab stands of the Libyan Jamahiriya and Sudan, which insist on their principles despite the U.S. blockade. The conferees stressed the importance of continuing the active popular, political, and media move to lift and condemn the blockade imposed on them. They stressed the need to exert every effort to show solidarity with the people of Iraq to lift the siege imposed on them and end the injustice done to them so that they would be able to play their national role within their nation.

The Central Committee also hailed the Islamic revolutionary role of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is being subjected to suspect campaigns of distortion because of its support for the cause of Palestine and its rejection of the logic of the U.S. policy.

The PFLP-GC Central Committee addressed greetings and appreciation to the heroes of the nationalist and Islamic resistance in southern Lebanon and Palestine, the martyrs of the Arab and Islamic nation, the detainees and the wounded, and our Palestinian people as they struggle to liberate the land and man.

[Signed] The PFLP-GC Central Command

Arab-Israeli Talks

Arab-Israeli Talks: Israeli, Jordanian Army Officers on Border Security

TA0708154996 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1500 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General Ilan Biran, commander of the Central Command, and the Jordanian deputy chief of staff met today in the Jordan Rift Valley to discuss ways to improve security along the border between the two countries. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the lessons drawn by both sides from the incident a few weeks ago in which three Israeli soldiers were killed in a clash with a terrorist gang which had infiltrated from Jordan were raised in the meeting. The participants stressed the importance of maintaining security in the Jordan Valley without impairing civilian activities in the area. The meeting was also attended by regional commanders on both sides of the border, who decided to continue their contacts.

Arab-Israeli Talks: Gold, Nave 'Secret Meeting' With Lebanese 'Official' Denied

TA0808062896 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
8 Aug 96 pp 1, 2

[Report by Ben Kaspit and Hemi Shalev]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Dr. Dore Gold, the prime minister's political adviser, and Cabinet Secretary Dani Nave have recently held a secret meeting with an official representative of the Lebanese Government in which they discussed details of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's Lebanon First plan.

The meeting was held in a European capital over the weekend of 19-20 July. Gold and Nave were accompanied by another Israeli representative. The meeting has been kept completely secret so far. The Lebanese representatives apparently attended the meeting without Syria's approval.

Initial reports that such a meeting took place spread in Beirut two days ago. Reliable Arab sources confirmed it yesterday, but the prime minister's bureau adamantly denied such a meeting took place.

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad last night rejected the prime minister's offer to resume negotiations with Israel. [passage omitted]

Other sources in the prime minister's bureau said last night that "there is no reason to pay too much attention to Syrian rhetoric," and that "other contacts are being held."

It appears that the cautious optimism in Jerusalem is based, among other things, on the opening of the Lebanese track in the 19 July secret meeting.

Algeria

Algeria: 'Violent Blast' Rocks Algiers

LD0808114396 Paris France-2 Television Network
in French 1100 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] There was a violent blast in Algiers earlier today, around 1200 [1000 GMT]. Ambulances and police cars made for the heights of the capital. The scene of the blast is still not known. We do not know either whether this is a bomb attack.

I would like to remind you that Islamist groups have been carrying out more bomb attacks lately.

Algeria: Seven Injured in Bomb Blast in Algiers

LD0808123396 Algiers ENTV Television Network
in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A homemade bomb exploded today at 1200 [1100 GMT] in a coffee shop in Krim Belkacem street, in Telemly district, Algiers. Seven people were injured, and the coffee shop and neighboring buildings were damaged in the bomb blast. Accompanied by the security services, the civil protection services rushed to the scene to offer preliminary help and care to the injured people.

Once again, public places, particularly popular coffee shops, are targeted and, clearly, the prime targets are always the citizens. Therefore, caution, vigilance, and care would prevent a great deal of danger.

Algeria: Foreign Minister Attaf Receives Palestinian Official

LD0708202796 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Affairs Minister Ahmed Attaf received Nayif Hawatimah, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine secretary general, this afternoon at his ministry.

Hawatimah, who arrived yesterday in Algeria on a three-day visit at the invitation of the Transitional National Council, was received yesterday by Communication and Culture Minister Mihoub Mihoubi during which points of view were exchanged and the recent developments in the Palestinian arena and the progress of the peace process in the Middle East were reviewed.

Algeria: Palestinian Official Reviews Middle East Problems

LD0708222596 Algiers ENTV Television Network
in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In order to learn about the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine's views and its stances regarding the current developments in

the Middle East, particularly the latest Arab moves, we hosted Nayif Hawatimah, its secretary general, at our 1300 [1200 GMT] bulletin. We now present highlights of Hawatimah's statement.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] In his first statement, Secretary General Hawatimah pointed out that the extremist Israeli right's policy was about more settlements and the Judaization of Jerusalem. He said that as a means of implementing that policy, Netanyahu's government planned to settle 500,000 elderly people in the occupied territories, thus completely disregarding the UN resolutions which stipulate the exchange of land for peace. The rationale of that government was based on peace for peace or security for security.

In view of the expansionist tendency of the ruling right, Hawatimah proposed, first, an in-depth and extensive dialogue to unite the ranks of the Palestinians and, second, to confront that expansionist tendency.

Hawatimah stressed that dialogue between the Palestinian Authority and the Democratic Front had begun a while ago in an attempt to mend the rift that undermined the Palestinian coalition after the Oslo agreement.

Regarding the question of peace with Syria:

[Hawatimah] Completely forget the idea of "Lebanon First." Israel has to implement UN [Security Council] Resolution 425 by pulling out of southern Lebanon unconditionally. That will benefit Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, and the Arab peoples. It would be harmful to separate the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, as they did with the aid of the Oslo and Camp David Agreements.

There are three main elements to ensure progress in a comprehensive and balanced peace process. First, the restoration of Palestinian national unity and the PLO institutions which were destroyed after Oslo [agreement]; second, the consolidation of Arab solidarity by activating, implementing, and developing the Arab summits [date not specified] resolutions and not letting them remain as mere slogans; and third, the coordination of relations among Arab countries on the basis of the Arab summit resolutions and with the EU, Japan, and China as well as the United States and Russia in their capacity as the sponsors of the peace process. [end recording]

Algeria: Further on Palestinian Official Views on Middle East Peace

LD0708224796 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Two Arab meetings at the highest level have been held today, the first brought together the Syrian president, Hafiz al-Asad, and the

Egyptian [President] Husni Mubarak in Alexandria and the second brought together the Jordanian monarch, King Husayn, and the Palestinian president, Yasir 'Arafat, in Aqaba. [passage omitted]

Nayif Hawatimah, the secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, who is currently visiting Algeria, explained this Arab movement to find the sufficient means and unified Arab stance on the issues which are still obstructing the peace process.

[Begin Hawatimah recording] We are currently discussing these issues in Algeria at a time when a discussion is taking place between President Asad and President Mubarak in Cairo and between 'Arafat and King Husayn in Amman. Before that, Netanyahu was in both Cairo and Amman. They have not obtained anything because they know well that the program of Netanyahu's government is a serious program to which he is committed before the majority which elected him and which was endorsed by the Israeli parliament, the Knesset, as being the program for the Israeli government. Thus, everyone should leave the grey area. Everyone should return to the true steps which lead to the rebuilding of the unified Palestinian rank and the rebuilding of the unified rank of Arab solidarity until we succeed in moving forward and be frank with our people and our peoples, otherwise the Arab peoples' movement will not observe a long silence about what is taking place. We should transcend this by uniting ourselves; uniting all the stones, all the energies, all the hands, and all the muscles against the occupation and against the settlement for rebuilding the negotiating process on the basis of the UN resolutions, on the basis of land-for-peace and on the basis of a comprehensive peace in return for a comprehensive withdrawal to the pre-4 June 1967 lines. [end recording]

That was an excerpt from the interview which Nouredine Moussadek conducted with Nayif Hawatimah. You can listen to the complete recording of this interview at the end of tomorrow's second news bulletin [1200 GMT].

Algeria: Commercial, Economic Enterprise Managers Head For Iraq

LD0708170996 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The managers of 20 Algerian commercial and economic enterprises are heading for Iraq today to lay down the groundwork for commercial transactions and hold preliminary contacts to this end. Over to Amal Meddah for further details:

[Begin Meddah recording] In implementation of the cooperation agreements signed between Algeria and

Iraq, an Algerian delegation made up of the managers of 20 major commercial and economic enterprises is heading for Baghdad today to discuss what the Algerian market can offer to the Iraqi market, particularly as regards medicines and foodstuffs.

During the eighth session of the Joint Algerian-Iraqi Committee held in Algiers last month, the Iraqi transport minister reaffirmed his country's commitment to give precedence, in terms of imports, to Algerian products, especially those used in construction and equipment and pharmaceutical products.

According to well-informed sources, the Iraqi authorities have given instructions to the departments in charge of imports urging them to give precedence, in their external commercial transactions, to Algerian products. Thus, Algerian products remain the first in line to meet the needs of Iraqi consumers, in addition to the areas of industry, energy, agriculture, health, and education. Cooperation will also be expanded to encompass other sectors such as agriculture and construction. [end recording]

Algeria: Finance Minister Rules Out Third Debt Rescheduling

LD0408191996 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Finance Minister Ahmed Benbitour has made a statement saying that Algeria will not resort to rescheduling its foreign debt for a third time.

In an answer to a question about the need for rescheduling [foreign debt] for a third time in view of the very low achievement in industry, building, public works, and irrigation, the finance minister said in a statement to the Algerian news agency that a minimal knowledge of the qualities of the Algerian economy allow one to say that there is no negative corollary between the efficiency of industry, building, public works, and irrigation. The issue of rescheduling [foreign debt] is not necessarily linked to the lack of efficiency in the sectors of industry, building, public works, and irrigation, neither did this [lack of efficiency] lead to it [rescheduling].

Benbitour said that the opposite is true, and he explained it by saying that rescheduling would have negative consequences on the efficiency of the two sectors, which allow a better provision for small imported equipment needed by industry [as heard].

He said that both sectors have not reached the production level for export — therefore they will be relied upon neither for bringing in foreign currency nor for the payment of foreign debt.

Algeria: FLN To Participate in Committees Set Up by Presidency

LD0708162196 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The new round of bilateral meetings is continuing. President Liamine Zeroual today received a delegation representing the National Liberation Front (FLN), made up of Boualem Benhamouda, Abderrahmane Belayat, and Amar Tou. The meeting, held at the Presidency, was attended by Mohamed Beichine, minister-adviser to the president of the republic, and Abdelmadjid Bouzidi, adviser in charge of economic affairs to the presidency of the Republic. The meetings aim at reaching an agreement on a number of political matters.

After the meeting, the FLN secretary general announced that his party has agreed to take part in the mixed committees and had this to say:

[Begin Benhamouda recording] We had an in-depth discussion about matters concerning an amendment to the Constitution and the organization of a national conference for national concord and national reconciliation. We also had an in-depth discussion about the issue of violence. Despite the existence of some differences of opinion on these subjects, such as the timing of the constitutional amendment, we have decided to take part in all the committees in charge of examining these matters.

We will try to give our opinion on all the issues to be raised so that we may influence the solutions. These solutions are important with regard to the future of political life, in the short and long terms. [end recording]

Moreover, some media sources today reported that three parties have so far agreed to take part in the four mixed committees in charge of examining a number of political issues. These are the Ennahda movement, the General Union of Algerian Workers, and the Rally for Culture and Democracy. According to the same sources, the Ettahadi movement and the Movement for Democracy in Algeria are expected to add their support to this consensus.

It is worth mentioning that, so far, the president of the republic has met the Rally for Culture and Democracy, the General Union of Algerian Workers, the Socialist Forces Front, and the Ennahda movement.

Algeria: Press Urged To Preserve Independence

LD0508212096 Algiers LA NATION in French
16 Jul 96 p 6

[Article by Abed Charef: "The Apparatchiks Prepare the Multilateral Meetings: Artificial Consensus Against Zeroual. Liamine Zeroual looks well isolated on the eve

of the multilateral meetings. A large consensus against his project is taking place, but a consensus which is not innocent and very temporary"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Will Chawki Amari [cartoonist for LA TRIBUNE] be the future leader of the Algerian opposition? Detained since the beginning of the month, the cartoonist of LA TRIBUNE is to achieve what the opposition could not do in five years: A consensus against 'le pouvoir' [those who really retain power]. Genuine and false democrats, Islamists in the inner circle, and bearded men of the opposition, genuine intellectuals and false civil society come together to call for the release of a young man who never thought he would gather so many signatures supporting his cause.

The repeated calls for the setting up of the well-known "democratic bloc," the project to hold a peace conference, the insistent calls for the respect of liberties have, so far, brought together so many people, political parties, associations, and personalities so different from Chawki Amari.

Moreover, democracy owes a lot to the cartoonist of LA TRIBUNE, for, if we believe some commentators, the Amari case has revealed the gap which has widened between 'le pouvoir' on the one hand, and the whole of the opposition on the other. According to a commentator, "in this opposition, political parties, civil society, and the press should be included." As the population is already in the opposition, 'le pouvoir' is, therefore, extremely isolated in the face of opponents who may have decided to forget their differences to work for a genuine democratic project.

This picture is nice as it is false, because it overshadows the nature of the opposition, the motives of each of its opponents, and their goals. The opposition has not been on the same side against 'le pouvoir' for the same reasons. It has not developed the same tactics and defended the same objectives.

In this case, we rediscover the same divisions between the two types of opposition. First of all, there is the opposition which is external to the system and has a project and a process to defend. It includes some independent parties and organizations that remain faithful to their own process. In this group, the great ideas put forward aim at the priority which should be given to the return of peace in society, while, at the same time, trying to promote a political solution to solve a crisis which is above all political.

In the second group, there is the "participationist" opposition, the one which evolves around certain clans of 'le pouvoir' and adopts radical, but short-lived stances. It is an opposition which mainly expresses the

feelings of circles of 'le pouvoir' hostile to Liamine Zeroual, and, more and more, to his powerful minister of state at the Presidency, Mohamed Betchine.

For these circles, the achievement of the objectives contained in the memorandum of the Presidency runs the risk of giving more powers to Zeroual and, through him, to Betchine. And they are right, because a revision of the Constitution, in an authoritarian way, would only reinforce 'le pouvoir'. Without an elected parliament, with political parties on their knees, a docile administration, a press under great pressure, and an agonizing justice, Zeroual would have a quasi-absolute power if he were to succeed in imposing a revision of the Constitution as a first step of his political program.

This is what, first of all, worries circles of 'le pouvoir' hostile to Liamine Zeroual, on the eve of the multilateral meetings. This is, also, what pushes them to be involved in many operations where manipulation is a rule, while trying to include in their game the very few organizations — political parties, associations, or publishing companies — which are still independent.

In private talks, things are said clearly. In press circles, most of the disappointments, since the LIBERTE issue, are attributed to Mohamed Betchine. True or false, the man is believed to have immense power. He was already behind the scanners issue [allegations of commissions being taken by officials who authorized imports of medical scanning equipment]. When the daily newspaper EL WATAN wrote: "Look towards the east," it was a clear allusion to point a finger at Mohamed Betchine as responsible for the paper's problems when EL WATAN was tried.

In certain circles, it is said that Betchine has instigated the Amari issue. He was made furious by the legal proceedings against the former director of Algerian television, Zoubir Zemzoum. Therefore, he decided to strike firmly, by taking, as a target, the one he regarded as a journalist of a rival group, Chawki Amari.

This is, at least, what is said, in an aside, in many circles. Because, in these circles, political journalism, let alone the political journalist, is not considered as something independent from the circles of 'le pouvoir'. Used to finding obedient if not servile, people, the authorities have the deplorable tendency to believe that everyone is structured in a clan. This vision naturally leads them to consider that those who are not with them are their enemies working with the opposing clan.

In the case of Chawki Amari, it is obviously not true, because it is rare to find a journalist keeping away from political circles. But obviously, this is hard to believe for the apparatchiks across the board. Elsewhere,

other apparatchiks find themselves defending Chawki Amari. Their goal is to get closer to political parties; they want them to be their allies to confront Liamine Zeroual's project. What could bring together the Rally for Culture and Democracy and the Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights led by Abdenour Ali Yahia? Few things, if not nothing.

Moreover, the two sides call for the release of the cartoonist of LA TRIBUNE and fight for the defense of press freedom. Facing political parties, the press, as well, has found itself in a new position. For the first time since the cancellation of the December 1991 elections, it has, indeed, found unanimous support among political parties, while within 'le pouvoir' an obvious hostility has emerged.

Many observers, nowadays, believe that a common cause between the press and political parties has been reached in the euphoria of solidarity expressed over the Amari issue. However, this euphoria runs the risk being temporary, because similar situations have occurred in the past without concrete results. The majority of the important political parties leaders went to the head office LIBERTE in summer 1993 to express support for this daily newspaper, which was suspended under Belaid Abdesselam [former prime minister].

In the end, it appeared that it was only about a battle for the dismissal of the author [Abdesselam] of "The War Economy" wanted by circles of 'le pouvoir' and obtained thanks to a media campaign on freedom of the press. Once the issue had been solved, the press had forgotten that its own freedom was inseparable from the parties' freedom and had contributed, with 'le pouvoir', to discredit political parties and figures.

The same picture is taking shape on the eve of the multilateral meetings. The press has even decided to create its own event, on the same day of the opening of the multilateral meetings, by holding a forum on freedom of the press. At the same time, the press has decided to boycott official activities, particularly the multilateral meetings. It is a means of showing Liamine Zeroual that his initiative is not liked.

But it is a very questionable means of defending freedom of the press and liberties as a whole.

Egypt

Egypt: Mubarak, Syria's al-Asad Hold 'Closed Session'

JN0708121096 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad arrived in Alexandria at 1200 today. Egyptian President

Muhammad Husni Mubarak led those who received President al-Asad. [passage omitted]

Following the reception ceremony at the airport, the two presidents left in an official motorcade for the Ra's al-Tin Palace where they held a closed session. The Syrian delegation accompanying President al-Asad, which comprises Vice President 'Abd- al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', also held a meeting with the Egyptian side, which includes Prime Minister Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri; Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, minister of defense and war production; Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif; and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

The closed session between the two presidents was followed by an expanded meeting attended on the Syrian side by Vice President 'Abd- al-Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Syrian Ambassador to Egypt Dr. 'Isa Darwish. The meeting was attended on the Egyptian side by Prime Minister Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri; Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, minister of defense and war production; Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif; Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa; Dr. Zakariya 'Azmi, head of the President of the Republic's Court; and Mahmud Shukri, Egypt's ambassador to Syria.

Egypt: Mubarak, Syria's Al-Asad Hold News Conference

NC0708142796 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1236 GMT 7 Aug 96

[News conference by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad at the Ra's al-Tin Palace in Alexandria — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mubarak] I seize the opportunity to welcome my brother President Hafiz al-Asad, a long time brother, colleague, and friend since the October war days and possibly before that. We met today, as we usually do from time to time, to exchange views on various issues, specially the peace issue. We also discussed bilateral relations. There are absolutely no problems in these relations and there is cooperation in all bilateral fields. As to the peace issue, we discussed and exchanged views on it. We believe that the agreements with the Palestinian side must be implemented and that the Syrian and Lebanese tracks still need some time before these talks can proceed. But we are eager for peace and for starting dialogue and negotiations, because peace concerns all the peoples in the entire region. Thank you.

[Al-Asad] Thank you brother President Mubarak. As President Mubarak said, we exchanged views and discussed matters related to the peace process. We dis-

cussed them in detail, to a certain extent between myself and President Mubarak directly and also by the two delegations. Of course, the discussions revolved mostly around the peace process. The Arabs in general are committed to this peace, but on its established bases, that is the Madrid terms of reference. The peace process began in 1991 after great efforts by the Arabs, the United States, the Europeans, and Russia, as the second sponsor of the conference, which culminated with a number of documents based on international legitimacy, that is, on the UN resolutions and the land for peace principle. All that happened before the Madrid conference was held. Agreement was also reached on a number of principles and then the call to hold the Madrid conference was made. Great efforts were then made and some progress was achieved, until the Israeli elections were held and a new government came to power. This government has changed or not recognized all these efforts and all these agreements. In their talk, they are using expressions that constitute a challenge to the whole world, which is following the peace process. They are underestimating the intelligence of their listeners.

They are demanding that the peace process be resumed. We are willing to go along, but on the principles on which the peace operation was founded. They say that they want peace, but without preconditions. The preconditions to which they refer are actually these legal documents that were agreed upon in Madrid and on which we based our efforts, namely the UN Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace principle. There was an international consensus on these principles and a general wish to ensure the success of the peace process on these foundations. They are frankly saying that the decisions, or rather the working methods, of the former Israeli Government have failed to attain peace and now they want to establish peace in their own way. We have no objection, if peace is to be attained on the foundations that were the starting point of the peace process. But they regard all these things as preconditions. They want us to resume the peace process without proper groundwork and without foundations for further action. I do not think that this will produce any results. If it could produce results, we would not have needed to make all those big efforts prior to the Madrid conference. We could have met face to face, without making all the efforts that were made before the Madrid conference. We have all heard that Netanyahu sent, via the United States, an invitation to Syria to resume negotiations. Of course, there is nothing in the wording of this invitation that would give a glimmer of hope that peace might come. It is not necessary to read out this invitation or give its details, but no one who reads it feels that it will lead to peace or that the people who wrote it wish to establish peace. We

are committed to the peace process on the basis of the relevant UN resolutions, the land-for-peace principle, and all the other foundations that were established. We also adhere to the agreements and commitments made during the past five years. We are willing to resume the peace operation on this basis. I wish to emphasize this point, because they formerly said that they wanted peace in return for peace. They also used to claim that the Arabs would eventually come to them. During our meeting today, we discussed this issue. Of course peace will not serve the good of one side only. When peace is established it will serve the interests of all the parties, but for peace to be achieved, several factors must be fulfilled.

This is the situation now as we see it, and this is the situation we saw in the past and which was right for starting the peace process, otherwise this process would not have continued for five years. There are of course those who say that the matter needs time. We are not in a rush. When things are ready and the conditions are right, then we will be ready to resume the peace process. We hope of course that things will develop and people will see something different from that they see now and we will not hear again these expressions we are hearing nowadays. Thank you.

[Unidentified correspondent] President Mubarak, Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is reiterating that he is not laying down any preconditions for resuming the peace talks. But, he is saying at the same time that he wants security for Israel and makes this condition a principal issue in the peace talks. He is therefore changing and limiting the bases of the peace process to Israel's security. In your view, how can the peace process make progress in light of this view, which is inconsistent with the peace talks and the bases of the peace process?

[Mubarak] Had you heard my statements in the news conference with Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, you would have heard me say that peace leads to security. Maintaining security without peace will be difficult. If we start with security only, then we will keep on trying to maintain it until the day of judgment. Despite the difficulties that could arise during the negotiations as we continue with the peace process, once peace is signed then all the countries in the region will cooperate to maintain security. This is my stand, which I have voiced here, in the United States, and everywhere.

[Correspondent] A question to President Hafiz al-Asad and another to President Mubarak. President al-Asad, President Mubarak's recent visit to Turkey cleared the Turkish-Syrian air. Could this step back Syria in its peace process track?

[Al-Asad] There are some words I did not understand. Could you repeat the question?

[Correspondent] President al-Asad, President Mubarak's recent visit to Turkey prepared and cleared the air between Turkey and Syria. Could this create a regional preparation for a peaceful settlement on the Syrian track with Israel?

[Al-Asad] Say something else, that is, maybe...

[Correspondent, interrupting] Mr. Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. President Mubarak's recent visit to Turkey ended with positive results, including clearing the air between Turkey and Syria. Could this create a regional preparation for the Syrian-Israeli track?

[Al-Asad] No talks have been held between us and Turkey about the peace process with Israel. Such issues are discussed within another framework. Of course, we believe that the present Turkish Government is interested in the affairs of the region and what they term the Middle East. In our view, this Turkish Government has a proper and fair view. Its leaders' actions are responsible ones and this government is exercising its responsibilities.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] that there should be positive and concrete steps to set the Palestinian track with Israel in motion?

[Mubarak] That's not all I said.

[Correspondent] Is there anything new on the horizon that can give confidence in connection with the other tracks in the region?

[Mubarak] I did not speak about the Palestinian track only. I said that the Palestinian-Israeli agreements must be complied with and respected. The Israeli side expressed its agreement with this. I also said that negotiations on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks must be resumed simultaneously and at the soonest possible date. There is agreement with this, but only few days have passed since my visit to the United States and therefore, I do not expect to find solutions very quickly. But what I am saying is that the earlier action is taken on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, and the more movement there is on the Palestinian track, the better. Time lost is not in the interest of the cause as a whole and also not in the interest of the region, including Israel.

[Correspondent] President Mubarak, in light of the recent Israeli intransigence on all the components of peace, do you see any possibility for the resumption of the peace process on the Syrian-Israeli track?

[Mubarak] I want to tell you something. Israel wants to start the talks. Syria wants to start the talks. But, there

is still a gap between the two sides over the basis for the resumption of the talks, as brother President Hafiz al-Asad said a short while ago. This is the point of difference between the two sides. I hope we will arrive at a kind of agreement to start the peace process.

[Correspondent] A question for Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. President Husni Mubarak recently called for the formation of a committee to discuss the causes of terrorism, to deal with the problem of terrorism, and to avert collective punishment. How do you view this call? How far is Syria prepared to participate in an international anti-terrorism conference? Has Syria taken specific steps in this direction.

[Al-Asad] In fact, it seems I am [Al-Asad appears to not understand the question].

[Mubarak whispers to al-Asad in an attempt to clarify the question]

[Al-Asad] I very much approve of this. Naturally, the mistake is not mine. Perhaps it is due to the atmosphere in which we are. Naturally, President Husni Mubarak's talk is correct and objective. Those who search for terrorism [sentence incomplete]. Terrorism is a crime. Those who search for the criminal, they must search only for him and punish this criminal alone. There are legal reasons. Each country has its laws. They deal with and punish this criminal who has harmed his country or another country. It is wrong to punish all the people because individuals from a certain country or a person have committed a mistake or crime; only these individuals must be brought to account and not others.

[Correspondent] President Mubarak, in light of your visit to the United States and your meeting with U.S. President Clinton, did you feel that the U.S. Administration, as a main sponsor of the peace process, will try to exert efforts to push forward the peace process in an election year and during these months before the elections. You said a short while ago that Israel wants to resume the peace process and Syria wants to resume it, but this process will not resume.

[Mubarak] What I know, you know. There is nothing new. This is an election year. The U.S. Administration is committed to the peace process, even during this period. But the U.S. Administration is now busy with general congresses of the Democrats and Republicans regarding the elections. Naturally, they will be busy for a long time. This is the subject. But they are committed to the peace process. They are committed to promoting the peace process. But the circumstances may still need more time.

[Correspondent] Mr. Syrian President, your meetings in Damascus with King Husayn and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat expressed the spirit of reconciliation, which was the fruit of the Arab summit conference in Cairo. In the future, can we expect a joint Syrian-Jordanian-Palestinian coordination to face the coming difficult and decisive phase in the peace process?

[Al-Asad] As is known, President Mubarak spoke about this subject before, during, and after the summit conference. At that time, we both agreed on improving the Arab situation and restoring it to normal. Efforts were made. We held in Damascus a Syrian-Egyptian-Saudi summit, preparatory to improving the conditions of other brothers. We agreed on holding a summit conference in Cairo. This conference was very successful. Naturally, although some of us have complaints about others, there are priorities for the Arab nation. Therefore, it was natural [sentence incomplete]. We said this before the conference—we said that we should open up to each other. This is what happened. However, in any case, even if the reconciliation did not take place, it is natural when an aggression takes place against any Arab, even if matters are not all right between us and this other Arab, we must stand on his side. Basic matters must not be harmed. The cause of any Arab country must not be harmed, because, for example, I hate this country or President Mubarak hates that country. Nevertheless, the creation of positive circumstances always...

[Mubarak interjects] It is not necessary that we hate anyone. There is nothing between us and others.

[Al-Asad laughs and continues] No, this happens. Ordinary citizens know that there are differences sometimes between peoples, because of lost love, et cetera. [Mubarak interjects again, but his remarks are inaudible] In any case, I believe we have transcended this to a great extent during the summit conference. President Mubarak played a key role in this. If there were no differences, there would not have been a need for efforts. We worked within this framework and out of the need for cooperation with each other, because every Arab is weak alone and strong with his brothers. God willing, we will remain so.

[Question in English indistinct]

[Mubarak, in English] I think we had very long talks concerning the Syrian and Lebanese track. We concluded that both should go parallel with each other and this is what we were discussing for quite a long time.

[Correspondent, in English] President Mubarak, President Hafiz al-Asad and other Arab leaders have expressed dismay over Netanyahu's continued insistence that it will be peace for peace and not land for peace.

You have been to Washington, you've met with Netanyahu. It doesn't look like Netanyahu from over here is going to change. Does that mean we are not going to see peace on the Syrian-Lebanese track during Netanyahu's [word indistinct]. What is your assessment?

[Mubarak, in English] Let's give the man there some time. Land for peace, the American position didn't change and you heard what President Clinton in the press conference said: The American position is not changed. So land for peace, and I said it in the press conference with Mr. Netanyahu here, is not changed. But there should be other ways and means to conclude this principle which is very important and on which was the basis of the Madrid conference.

[Correspondent] President Husni Mubarak, in your capacity as chairman of the Arab summit and having made a big contribution to holding this summit and strengthening Arab solidarity, how do you assess the current Arab position? Is it better now than it was prior to the summit? What measures is it possible to take to strengthen Arab solidarity and improve Arab conditions?

[Mubarak] We discussed this issue at the Arab summit. It is clear that the Arab summit met in a plenary session. There were many meetings on the sidelines. President Hafiz al-Asad met with His Majesty King Husayn and with President Yasir 'Arafat. Colonel al-Qadhafi met with several other leaders. I believe that this is a sign that there is now a sort of mutual understanding among the Arab countries. We hope to work all together to strengthen this solidarity. Thank you.

[Correspondent] What is Syria's position on the Lebanon first proposal?

[Al-Asad] Rather, it should be Lebanon and Syria first at the same time and with the same steps. If you want to be sure of this position, ask the Lebanese officials and the Lebanese people.

Egypt: Minister Discusses 'Importance' of Mubarak-al-Asad Summit

JN0708152896 Damascus SANA in Arabic
1420 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Alexandria, 7 Aug (SANA) — Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stressed the importance of the Syrian-Egyptian summit under the current conditions of the Middle East peace process. In a statement to a SANA correspondent, al-Sharif said the importance of the summit stems from the importance of continued consultation and coordination between Syria and Egypt. In addition, the summit comes in the wake of a series of meetings, primarily the summit

between President Husni Mubarak and U.S. President Bill Clinton and the meetings President Mubarak had with U.S. Administration officials.

Al-Sharif added that these efforts seek to advance the peace process on all tracks, especially the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. He said that the participants in today's summit in Alexandria will discuss the results of the Arab meetings and the meetings with other international parties. The summit participants will also discuss the Arab position, which is in harmony with the decisions of the Arab summit on the peace process and is based on the resolutions of international legitimacy, the Madrid conference, and the land-for-peace principle.

Al-Sharif asserted that the peace process is at a crossroads, stressing that the pivotal aspect is progress on the Syrian track, the return of all the occupied Arab territories, and the implementation of the Security Council resolutions and the principles agreed to by the international community, particularly at the Madrid conference. He said the Syrian-Egyptian summit will explore prospects for the Middle East peace process and ways to advance it and make it achieve its objectives.

Egypt: Cairo Papers View Mubarak-al-Asad Summit

NC0808070196 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0510 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Aug (MENA)—Cairo newspapers today stress that yesterday's summit between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will help bring about a unified Arab position on the need to adopt the Madrid formula if a genuine and lasting peace ensuring security and stability for all parties is to be achieved.

In their main headlines and front-page reports, the papers focus on the announcement by the two presidents during their news conference that they agreed on the importance of resuming the negotiations on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks at the same time and on equal footing without separating the two tracks within the Middle East peace talks. They also highlight the two presidents' remarks that time is not in favor of the region, including Israel.

The papers give prominence to President Mubarak's statements that peace leads to security; that if peace is achieved, all states of the region will cooperate to maintain and entrench security; and that without peace it will be difficult to maintain security.

The papers also highlight President Mubarak's remark that Egypt and Syria are concerned about the peace process, and they note the two presidents' assertion that

peace based on Madrid principles, the land-for-peace formula, and the UN Security Council resolutions is an Arab option. They say the aim is to achieve a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region.

Under the headline "'Lebanon First' Trap Is Rejected", AL-AHRAM says in its editorial: The Egyptian-Syrian summit was needed to discuss the chances for the peace process and the future challenges imposed by Binyamin Netanyahu through his hardline positions and his refusal to resume the negotiations on the basis of the international resolutions, the principles of the Madrid conference, and the land-for-peace formula, which were accepted by all sides as the general framework for the peace process.

It adds: Perhaps the pressing topic on the summit's agenda was Netanyahu's unofficial proposal called "Lebanon First", through which Israel seeks to sign a peace treaty with Lebanon in return for Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon. This means separating the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. Israel knows full well that Syria, backed by a unified Arab position, rejects the separation of the two tracks, which are intrinsically bound. Although Israel knows that this proposal is unacceptable in form and content, it still offers the proposal believing that by doing this it throws the ball in the Arab court and absolves itself of the responsibility for the halt of the peace process.

AL-AHRAM says the whole world knows very well that the Israeli proposal is nothing but a maneuver meant to circumvent the Arab position, which supports Syria in its call for the resumption of the negotiations on the basis of the Madrid conference and its rejection of negotiations for the sake of negotiations, as Netanyahu demands when he invites Damascus to negotiations while insisting on non withdrawal from the Golan.

Accepting the Israeli proposal, the paper says, will isolate Syria and make it appear before the world as the only Arab country that opposes the peace process. Or it will at least weaken Syria's negotiating position and deprive it of the necessary power to reach a just peace.

The paper concludes by saying that the Mubarak-al-Asad summit will certainly help establish a unified Arab position stressing the need to return to the Madrid formula if the aim is to achieve a lasting and genuine peace ensuring security and stability for all.

In an editorial headlined "The Egyptian-Syrian Summit, Revival of the Peace Process", AL-AKHBAR says the Mubarak-al-Asad summit underlines a host of facts the most important of which is that Egyptian policy and President Mubarak's tremendous efforts succeeded in

reviving the Middle East peace process, which many people thought was heading toward a state of dormancy after the victory of the Israeli right, headed by Binyamin Netanyahu, in the Israeli elections.

The paper says: The Egyptian-Syrian summit came after various political moves culminating in President Mubarak's visit to the United States and his meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton, and before that the important meeting between President Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in Cairo.

AL-AKHBAR goes on to say that the second fact which is emphasized by the Egyptian-Syrian summit rests in the mutual confidence between the two great leaders. This confidence is reflected in their numerous meetings and extensive consultations and coordination at this critical phase through which the Middle East peace process is passing.

AL-AKHBAR adds that the third important fact is that this meeting has been dictated by the emergence of extremely important developments. Perhaps the most important development is Netanyahu's call during his joint news conference with King Husayn of Jordan for the resumption of negotiations with Syria despite the official Syrian rejection of this call. Syria rejected the call because it does not contain any remark on the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights and also because of the test balloon launched by Israel when it started talking about what it called "Lebanon First". This provides for the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from south Lebanon in accordance with specific conditions that should be followed by talks about the resumption of the Syrian-Israeli negotiations.

Continuing, AL-AKHBAR notes that the fourth fact is that the Egyptian-Syrian summit represents a natural end of the recent Arab meetings. These meetings should be followed by practical measures to reactivate the peace process after the agreement reached among the various parties, who strongly believe that peace should be everybody's goal. This is because there can be no security without peace and there can be no progress or development without peace.

The paper concludes its editorial saying that since everyone has approved the peace strategy, we and the world also expect that the negotiations will indeed be resumed.

In his weekly column titled "Mubarak, al-Asad, and the Peace Process," AL-JUMHURIYAH's editor-in-chief Mahfuz al-Ansari said that it behooves the Israeli prime minister to stop resorting to maneuvers and to end the policy of ambiguity because the current stage cannot endure maneuvers. This stage requires clarity, he added.

The writer said that this stage requires courage by the Israeli side, stressing that Netanyahu must realize that the Arab stance on land and rights is invariable and nobody can change it. He said that the opportunity exists for peace, cooperation, the end of animosity, and the termination of terrorism. There is also an opportunity for Israel to either become a part of this region or be repudiated.

Mahfuz al-Ansari said that it all depends on Netanyahu's rationalism, honesty, and his relinquishment of imagination, the policy of extremism, and acts of aggression.

Egypt: Interior Ministry Denies Shots Fired at Israeli Envoy's Car

NC0708160696 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1454 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Aug (MENA)—A responsible security source in the Interior Ministry denied this morning's rumors that shots were fired at the car of the Israeli ambassador in Cairo in the al-Ma'adi area.

The source said today that the propagators of these rumors are trying to cause confusion or create an atmosphere of instability. He stressed that the Interior Ministry is eager to clarify any terrorist or criminal incidents that take place.

Egypt: Government, Opposition Papers Object to D'Amato Bill

NC0808084896 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0525 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Aug (MENA)—The AL-AHRAM and AL-WAFD newspapers express their belief that the U.S. decision to impose sanctions on foreign companies investing in the oil industry in both Iran and Libya is an act that will damage the interests of other parties, which include nations that have not committed any kind of crime.

In its editorial today and under the headline "The United States and the Calls for Fighting Terrorism", AL-AHRAM says that the U.S. decision has triggered a wave of European and international protests, which came as a natural reaction because of the diversification of international oil interests. The United States currently fulfills half of its oil needs through local production and the other half comes from several other sources, mostly in the Americas. The U.S. oil needs from the Middle East come from sources that do not include Libya or Iran.

The paper points out that, on the other hand, Europe, East Asia, and Southeast Asia depend basically on the Middle East region oil sources, primarily Iran and Libya. Therefore, the European objection to the U.S. unilateral decision is rightly based on the conclusion that it will harm the freedom of international trade and that it will constitute an attempt by the United States to impose its will on its allies by waving the flag of fighting terrorism.

The opposition paper AL-WAFD says that the U.S. stand runs counter to the principles of democracy, stressing that it is not within the rights of any state to enact laws and then impose them on independent and sovereign countries.

AL-WAFD pointed out that by signing this bill, the U.S. President has relinquished his position as head of the principal democratic country in the world, moved us back to the Middle Ages, and worn the tiara of a Roman Catholic pope by excommunicating any foreign company investing more than \$40 million in oil or gas production projects in Libya or Iran.

Libya

Libya: Electoral Pressure Behind Clinton's Law on Sanctions

LD0708124096 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
0930 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 8 Aug (JANA) — The American President signed, on 5 July 1996, a law imposing sanctions on foreign firms that invest in the oil field, in both Libya and Iran. He said that their goal, by issuing this law, was to prevent the two countries from supporting, what he called, terrorist activities.

While condemning the issue of this law, which violates international laws and conventions, particularly the UN Charter which forbids the use of economic sanctions for political purposes, the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation wants to remind the international community of the following:

First: Libya has reiterated, on many occasions, in official documents at the United Nations, its condemnation of all forms of terrorism, and has actively and strongly cooperated with the international community in order to struggle against it. It called for the holding of a conference to examine this odious phenomenon, from which many people have and are still suffering, including the Libyan Arab people, victim of state terrorism under the form of an outrageous military aggression from America itself.

Second: Libya has cooperated with the international community in the case of Lockerbie, and as a gesture of

good faith, it has accepted that its nationals, suspected in this issue, appear in front of court in a third country, despite the fact that this is in contradiction with international laws.

Third: Libya has, seriously and in good faith, cooperated with both the United Kingdom and France, in the framework of the implementation of the Security Council Resolution number 731/92, recognized by the two countries as official documents.

Fourth: Libya has informed the UN General Assembly on all steps taken to make sure of the non-existence on its territory of organizations or individuals suspected of having any connection with terrorism. It has asked the secretary general to send a team to investigate this, but the United States has opposed this initiative.

Fifth: The United States has called on Arab countries to put an end to the Arab economic boycott of Israel, and, at the same time, it has called on other countries to impose sanctions on Libya and a number of other countries.

Sixth: The American President accuses Libya of supporting terrorist activities against the interests of the United States, without producing any evidence. On the terrorism issue, how is it possible for him to explain the terrorist acts which have taken place inside his country and which have proved the involvement of his citizens?

The General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation knows the real reasons behind the issuing of this law, among which are:

1. The pressure of the electoral campaign on the American President.
2. The increasing concern of American oil companies over their vital interests in Libya, and their awareness that other oil companies are keen on having these concessions.
3. The continuous effort of the United States to impose its political and economic hegemony on countries of the region, use threat to force anyone who does not yield to its plans, and impose sanctions, a fact the Libyan Arab people strongly rejects.

Libya: Visiting PRC Official Criticizes U.S. Sanctions

LD0708174496 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
1557 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tripoli, 7 Aug (JANA) — Chinese-Libyan talks were held today in Tripoli. The brother secretary for foreign affairs at the General People's Congress [parliament] attended the meeting with Zhu Qizhen, member of the Standing Committee for the

PRC National People's Congress [NPC] member and vice chairman of the NPC Foreign Affairs Committee and his accompanying delegation. [passage omitted]

During the meeting, Zhu reiterated his country's rejection of hegemony and the use of force. He pointed to the destruction of the house of the brother leader of the revolution which he saw during his visit. He said this showed the extent of that aggression's barbarity and savagery and reflected the U.S. desire to dominate the world and to destroy the will of free nations, particularly those who reject hegemony and the use of force.

Qizhen reiterated China's rejection of the unjust measures imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah. He also reaffirmed his country's commitment to peaceful cohabitation and mutual respect and the noninterference in other countries internal affairs.

He said that China believes that it is necessary to find a peaceful and just solution to the so-called Lockerbie case. He said that dialogue is the right way to find a solution for this case but not the imposition of unjust resolutions which do not help in finding a solution; on the contrary, they complicate the case.

He said China did and still does its best on all levels at the various international meetings and at the United Nations to find a solution to the so-called Lockerbie case, as part of its participation in international peace and stability. [passage omitted]

Libya: Official on Farrakhan Prize, Human Rights, Prison Incident

MM0208133496 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 2 Aug 96 p 6

[Report by Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo: "Libya Awards U.S. Black Leader Louis Farrakhan the al-Qadhdhafi Human Rights Prize"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Libya has decided to award U.S. black leader Louis Farrakhan the al-Qadhdhafi 1996 Human Rights Prize, for his defense of the rights of black people still suffering from racial discrimination, particularly in Africa and the United States.

'Umar al-Hamidi, official in charge of the Awards Committee, told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the \$250,000 prize will be awarded at a ceremony which will coincide with an intellectual symposium, organized by Tripoli from 29-31 August, on the occasion of the 27th anniversary of the 1 September Revolution under the title "Human Rights and the Peoples in Africa." He added that Libya is keen to support the rights of Libyan citizens in particular and throughout the world in general, based on the great green document on human

rights, which he described as "a civilized example to emulate, which was approved after lengthy discussions taking into consideration the peoples' interests." The Libyan official denied rumors of human rights violations by Libya and welcomed the proposals made by some people to investigate the fact Libya has committed no violations in this respect and has followed international guidelines.

He described the Abu-Salim prison incidents as "something which can happen in any state, and are not as the biased media described them."

He added that he is in charge of a nongovernmental human rights organization working according to international guidelines and aimed at establishing a broad dialogue between north and south [passage omitted].

Libya: Qadhafi Receives Letter of Support From Greek President

LD0708192796 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
1755 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 7 Aug (JANA) — The brother leader of the revolution has received a message from President Konstandinos Stefanopoulos of the Hellenic Republic, in reply to the brother leader's message to world leaders regarding the right of world leaders to visit the Great Jamahiriya directly by air... or travel by the brother leader of the revolution to any country in the world in response to the Jamahiriya's active role in the international community, or in implementing its obligations toward the Arab nation, the Islamic world, the African continent, the Non-Aligned Movement and the United Nations in the service of security and peace in the world.

The Greek president's message, which expressed the obvious support and solidarity of the world countries to the content of the brother leader's message, said: We are certain that the search for a comprehensive solution to the aforementioned problems should be reached as soon as possible... and our country, which is Libya's friend, shares with you a hopeful view toward this issue and we shall spare no effort in this respect.

Libya: Minutes of Cooperation Agreement With Gambia Signed

LD0708211496 Tripoli Libyan Television Network
in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The minutes of a bilateral cooperation agreement in the economic, financial, banking, and investment spheres between the Great Jamahiriya and the Republic of Gambia was signed this evening in Tripoli.

The minutes were signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Finance and by Bala Garba-Jahumpa, Gambian finance and economic affairs minister [title as received], for the Gambian side in the presence of the members of the Libyan Arab and Gambian delegations.

Morocco

Morocco: Opposition Parties Hopeful of Meeting With King Hassan

LD0708214196 Casablanca LA VIE ECONOMIQUE
in French 26 Jul 96 p

[Article by Jamel Berraoui: "In the Eventuality of a High-Level Meeting, the Koutla Parties Adjust Their Position"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The leadership of the Koutla [Democratic Bloc consisting of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP), the Istiqlal Party (PI), the Party for Progress and Socialism (PPS), and the Organization for Democratic and Popular Action (OADP)] parties is busy again. They are talking about the possibility of a meeting with King Hassan II, a matter that would enable everyone to overcome the shock created by the Koutla Memorandum [addressed to King Hassan on 25 April calling for a homogeneous and responsible government] and its rejection by the king in his 8 July speech. Koutla member parties have already adjusted their positions, well before the meeting with the sovereign was mentioned.

Thus, PPS members have called for a government of national unity and the newspaper AL-MOUNATAF, the weekly which reflects the views of the supporters of Mr. Khyari [PPS leadership] said that constitutional reforms were not a precondition and that social problems were a priority. For their part, members of the USFP and the PI are in favour of keeping a low profile, while still calling for a reform of the power structure but not making this a prerequisite. [passage omitted]

The announcement of a possible meeting between the leadership of the Koutla opposition parties and King Hassan II could well be a signal for a new political momentum which would make this Summer a crucial season for the political future of the country.

Morocco: Algerian Envoy Urges Convening of AMU Summit

LD0608143396 Casablanca LIBERATION in French
31 Jul 96 p 1, 4

[Article by Omar Saeb headlined: "A relanching of the AMU summit"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Slimane Cheikh, the envoy of Algerian President Liamine Zeroual was received yesterday [30 July] afternoon by His Majesty King Hassan II.

The Algerian envoys, who are touring the Maghreb capitals, have messages from President Zeroual for the convening of an Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] summit.

This piece of information, which was confirmed by several diplomatic sources in Algiers, was given as early as Sunday [28 July] by a number of Arab newspapers including AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT.

Algeria has proposed to the AMU members the holding of a meeting of foreign ministers in September with a view to convening a summit meeting before the end of this year. [passage omitted]

A number of observers consider that the envoys of President Zeroual carried out their tours only after discreet contacts had been made that gave encouraging results. If this was confirmed, Algeria-Morocco relations could witness a relative warming-up this summer. Many Moroccans and Algeria have hoped for this warming of relations.

Morocco: Nuclear Studies Center To Be Built in Maamora

LD0608130896 Casablanca LE MATIN DU SAHARA
in French 1 Aug 96 p 1

[Report attributed to the Moroccan news agency [MAP] headlined "A nuclear studies center will be built in Maamora"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The construction of a nuclear studies center in Maamora was the focus of the second session of the administrative board of the National Center for Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology (CNESTEN) which was held in Rabat yesterday [31 July].

This nuclear studies center, which will be built in an area whose size is estimated at 25 hectares, will be equipped with a reactor for research and laboratories for the production of radioactive isotopes for medical and industrial purposes, research, and the disposal and management of radioactive waste.

This center, which will cost 688 million dirhams, will also be equipped with the necessary devices for guaranteeing the safety of the staff who will be working within this establishment, and will safeguard the environment in compliance with the security norms, which are recognized worldwide and particularly by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Sudan: Foreign Minister Denies Presence of Terrorists in Country

EA0808103796 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio
Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Foreign Minister, Mr. 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha, has reiterated that Sudan does not give shelter to terrorism and there are no terrorists in its territory. He said, while briefing leaders of the national assembly yesterday on the recent developments in the UN Security Council, that Sudan would like to assure the whole world that the charges against it are false. Moreover, Sudan will stand against any attempts to obstruct its course.

The head of the national assembly's foreign relations committee, Mr. 'Abd-al-Hamid, said that the briefing was aimed at making the assembly play its role in relation to any eventual ties. [sentence as heard] He said the door was still open for negotiations on the charges against Sudan. He said that a national assembly delegation would be touring the country and abroad for this purpose.

Tunisia

Tunisia: President Ben Ali Chairs Meeting on Economic Issues

LD0208153596 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali this morning chaired a mini-cabinet meeting which examined the economic situation in the country in general, and the effects of supply and demand on prices in particular.

The meeting examined the recent supply improvement in the market which has become more regular, and compared this year's price rises with last year's.

In this respect, the head of state reiterated the importance of following up price rises and the paramount need to make the necessary efforts to keep them under check. His excellency gave his instructions for drawing up suitable legislation to allow competent authorities to

intervene in order to restore a market balance and protect the purchasing power of citizens.

However, The head of state reiterated that the liberalization of the economy should be accompanied by a

number of measures which will guarantee real and fair competition which serves social and economic aims and the interests of the country.

Kuwait

Kuwait: Government Gives Humanitarian Aid to Iraqi Refugees in Iran

LD0508175196 *Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic*
1700 GMT 5 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A delegation from the Kuwaiti Red Crescent has started the distribution of a new initiative of humanitarian aid to Iraqi refugees in Iran consisting of 118 tons of food and blankets.

The chairman of the Kuwaiti Red Crescent delegation said in Shiraz, in southern Iran, that today the delegation completed the first stage of the distribution of humanitarian aid, which is the sixth one in the series of batches that the State of Kuwait started to distribute years ago to Iraqi refugees fleeing the Iraqi regime's oppression.

The chairman of the Kuwaiti Red Crescent delegation said also that the first stage encompassed 1,000 Iraqi families composed of more than 5,000 people living in the Jahrom refugee camp, which is about 100 km south of Shiraz.

Kuwait: Petroleum Firm Extends Agreement With British Petroleum

LD0808103396 *Kuwait KUNA in Arabic*
0900 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 8 Aug (KUNA) — Kuwait Petroleum Company, KPC, today announced the renewal of the agreement with BP [British Petroleum] for a further three-year period.

Ahmad al-Arbid, deputy of the executive member delegate for planning and development of KPC, said to KUNA that by virtue of the agreement, the BP will continue to give the necessary technical advice to KPC in the field of exploration and development of oil production and the related support services in Kuwait.

Arbid said the renewal of the agreement, which was signed on 7 August, was the fruit of the benefits gained by KPC in the last four years during which a host of important techniques were transferred to the oil fields in Kuwait. This has led to the rationalization of expenses and the setting up of future plans for the development of oil production in these fields. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia: Results of Paris Meeting on Terrorism Praised

JN0708183996 *Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic*
1 Aug 96 p 7

[Editorial: "A World War Against Terrorism"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the aftermath of the Atlanta bombing, which was preceded by the mid-air explosion of a U.S. plane and a wave of terrorist attacks in various parts of the world, European states and the United States have made intensive efforts to formulate a vigorous blueprint for fighting terrorism and terrorists.

Toward that end, a ministerial meeting that brought together the seven biggest industrial nations and Russia convened in Paris on 30 July to draft practical measures aimed at waging a world war against terror and terrorists in order to end, once and for all, the barbaric and savage acts committed by irresponsible groups of people to frighten innocent citizens and destabilize the security and stability of world nations and peoples for lowly and satanic purposes that conflict with the most basic tenets of religious, ethical, behavioral, and legal principles that govern the conduct of man in human communities.

Terrorism, regardless of its various forms, names, and purposes, is now so serious that it jeopardizes the security, stability, and peace of world peoples. Therefore, there must be a serious collective effort to curb terrorist acts that are targeted against the interests of people and countries. The danger is aggravated by the fact that terrorist waves have become organized and elaborate, not to mention the terrorists' connections with international networks that finance them and supply them with equipment that facilitates killing, oppression, sabotage, and destruction to the detriment of world peoples, stability, and peace.

The foreign and interior ministers of the seven biggest nations and Russia have taken firm practical measures during their recent Paris conference to promote the principle of international cooperation against terrorism, such as the exchange of intelligence information, facilitating the extradition of criminals, drying up the terrorists' finances, cutting off their supply lines, and preventing them from using the international communication network to promote their terror.

These firm and collective international measures constitute a good start, which reflects the world's desire to stem and curb terrorism. Of particular significance is the fact that most of the Paris meeting participants have been victims of terrorism and violence for the past two years. A large number of world countries have also been

targeted by terrorist waves. Terrorism is an international phenomenon that knows no boundaries. Terrorists, unlike normal people, have no scruples.

The draft measures endorsed by the Paris meeting conferees stipulate that the conferees will collectively ratify treaties on fighting hijackers and hostage-takers, the extradition of defendants, and the exchange of information on suspects. The conferees have also pledged to provide their militaries with training on bomb detection and anti-terror tactics, improve the monitoring of the flow of funds to suspect groups, and require explosives manufacturers to put chemical markers on explosives to facilitate the tracking of sources. These measures by the conferees, coupled with other precautionary measures they have approved, all aim to fight terrorism and track terrorists. Undoubtedly, this serious step must be coupled with similar steps by all world states. The terrorism phenomenon is serious, and fighting terrorism has become of the utmost importance. Accordingly, fighting terrorism must be accorded top priority by all world states, without exception.

Saudi Arabia: King Fahd Officiates at Council of Ministers Meeting

*LD0608141596 Riyadh SPA in English
1221 GMT 6 Aug 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jeddah, Aug 6 (SPA) — Custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd 'Bin-Abd-al-'Aziz presided over the weekly meeting of the Council of Ministers on Monday evening and briefed the ministers on the kingdom's views and positions vis-a-vis major regional, Arab, Islamic and international developments which have occurred in the last few days.

King Fahd reviewed the Saudi efforts in this connection and his consultations and meetings with Arab leaders like Palestinian President Yasser 'Arafat, Kuwaiti Deputy Premier [title as received] [Heir Apparent] and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd Al-Abdallah Al-Sabah, as well as U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry.

Information Minister Dr Fu'ad al-Farisi said King Fahd reiterated the kingdom's keenness on continuing its sincere efforts to help solve various issues, notably the Middle East peace process.

The monarch said Saudi Arabia will never deviate from the firm basis of the holy Koran and the Sunnah in its relations with brethren and friends.

King Fahd added that on this basis the kingdom will continue to exert its utmost efforts towards the achievement of just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East, within the framework of international legitimacy.

Dr al-Farisi indicated that the cabinet examined domestic issues on the agenda and passed the following resolutions:

1 — Amendment of article 3 of the King Fahd National Library Regulations issued as per Royal Decree No. M/9 dated 13-5-1410 [1990], to read as follows:

A board of trustees for the library shall take shape and group the chairman in addition to five other members interested in library affairs. They shall be selected as per a royal decree for a three year period of membership which can be renewed twice. A librarian shall be included as a member.

2 — Appointment of Fahd al-Shabrami as undersecretary for contractor classification affairs on grade 15 at the ministry of public works and housing.

3 — Appointment of Muhammad al-Khathlar as general manager of administrative and financial affairs on grade 14 at the Border Guard Corps.

Yemen

Yemen: Authorities Tracking Down Suspect in Riyadh Blast

*NC0708204096 Cairo MENA in English
2020 GMT 7 Aug 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sanaa, Aug 7 (MENA)—The Yemeni Security authorities are tracking down a Yemeni suspected of involvement in masterminding the explosion that occurred in the Saudi capital Riyadh last year, killing seven American soldiers.

AL-WAHDAWI newspaper today quoted an Interior Ministry source as saying the security agencies are chasing down this person in hopes of disclosing his connection with the incident.

The move comes in implementation of the security agreement signed by Yemen and Saudi Arabia on July 27.

Yemen: Yemeni Speaker Says Prince Sultan To Visit 'End of This Month'

*MM0708133996 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 7 Aug 96 pp 1,4*

[Report by Wahib Muhammad Ghurab in Jeddah: "Al-Ahmar Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: The Main Object of My Visit to Saudi Arabia is To Set the Date of Prince Sultan's Visit"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, speaker of the Yemeni Chamber of Deputies, has stressed that one of the main objects of his current visit

to Saudi Arabia is to fix a date for the visit to Yemen of Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister, and inspector general.

Shaykh al-Ahmar told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the visit has been set for the end of this month, and will be announced later. Concerning Prince Sultan's visit, he said: "We very much look forward to this visit, and it has indeed been arranged."

In response to a question on reports that the joint committees' work is facing some obstacles, al-Ahmar explained that there were no obstacles as such. There are, however, some differences in views between the technical committees, and it is only normal that there should be a disagreement between two countries over borders. He said that the main committees will settle everything, adding: "There may be some delay, because border issues are not resolved easily."

On the nature of these obstacles, Shaykh al-Ahmar said: "I do not think that there are obstacles, and even if there were any, these are small difficulties." On whether his current visit to Saudi Arabia has helped overcome

or remove these obstacles, al-Ahmar said that the joint higher committee's task is to overcome and remove the obstacles and remove any disagreement arising in any of the joint committees.

Asked whether the meeting of the committee for border demarcation between the two countries, which started the day before yesterday in Sanaa, is a result of his current visit to Saudi Arabia, al-Ahmar said that the date of the meeting had been set earlier. He described the signing last week of the security agreement between his country and Saudi Arabia as a major step, in both countries' interests. Asked whether his talks with Prince Sultan touched on how to implement the memorandum of understanding ratified by the two countries, he said that the memorandum of understanding is proceeding normally with regard to the committees' meetings and work.

He stressed that his visit to Saudi Arabia is a friendly visit which stems from the strong fraternal relations. "I very often visit the Kingdom to meet with officials there, even if there is nothing to discuss." [passage omitted]

Iraq: 165 Officers Executed for Involvement in Coup Attempt

JN0708141796 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Exclusive sources in northern Iraq have said that on 2 August, the tyrant Saddam carried out death sentences against a large number of officers suspected of involvement in the recent coup attempt against him. The sources added that the number of officers executed so far has reached 165.

The same sources confirmed that most of the officers executed were from Baghdad, Mosul, al-Ramadi, and Samarra'. Their bodies, including the body of Major General pilot 'Abd Mutlaq al-Juburi, were delivered to their families on 3 August.

Iraq: Further Arrests of Senior Officers in Wake of Failed Coup

LD0708212596 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1635 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 7 Aug (SPA) — An Iraqi opposition group confirmed today that the Iraqi regime has arrested another group of senior officers in the Iraqi Army and security and intelligence organizations on suspicion of their involvement in a failed coup attempt against the regime of Saddam Husayn.

According to KUNA, the opposition Iraqi National Congress (INC) Radio has said that those arrested included a brigadier general and a colonel in the special security organization. Also included was a major in the public security organization and two colonels in the Iraqi general intelligence.

The INC radio on Tuesday announced that the Baghdad regime had executed 165 officers who had been arrested on the charge of taking part in a failed coup attempt against the regime of Saddam Husayn on 18 June. [passage omitted]

Iraq: Opposition Radio Reports Attack on Army Division in South

JN0708143696 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The heroes of Islamic resistance in al-Nasiriyah [Dhi Qar] Governorate, in southern Iraq, have dealt a heavy blow to the headquarters of a Saddamist Army Division in the past few days. A recent statement issued by the Islamic resistance said that the mujahidin targeted the headquarters of the 11th 'Aflaqite Army Division near the Dutch project with their Katyusha rockets.

Several regime troops were killed, and others were wounded in the attack. Several positions were also destroyed, and various kinds of military equipment were set ablaze.

The statement issued by the mujahidin described the attack as severe [words indistinct] the rocket attack mounted by our heroes against the Saddamist troops is part of our defense of the lofty Iraqi tribes in al-Nasiriyah Governorate, which have risen up to fight the regime troops' remnants and repulsed their attacks since 23 July.

Iraq: Diplomat Views U.S.-European Differences Over Sanctions

JN0708181896 Baghdad INA in English 1350 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Aug 7, INA—An Iraqi diplomat has predicted that the international relations will witness in the next period an economic conflict between Europe and America.

In an analysis in the Iraqi AL-THAWRAH paper on Wednesday, Iraq's Ambassador in Paris 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hashimi said the protests and stiff opposition the European states expressed towards the new American law to punish the non-American companies which deal with Libya and Iran are the start of that conflict whose indications started to be clear following the European group's approval of Helms-Burton law issued last March to punish foreign investors in Cuba. [sentence as received]

U.S. President Bill Clinton had put off the implementation of Helms law for six years flowing the European group's threat to punish the U.S. companies with similar measures once the law is implemented.

The new U.S. law threatens to punish any non-U.S. company which organizes with Libya and Iran commercial contracts whose amounts exceed 40 million dollars.

The U.S. plays the role of the international policeman to ensure its own interests through putting pressures on the U.N. and its Security Council, he said.

The European position towards the new U.S. law reflects the failure of the U.S. foreign policy in this respect, the Iraqi diplomat said.

He expressed confidence that the latest European position towards the new U.S. law is an evidence that Europe and Japan have put red lines before the U.S. projects which aim to control over world oil, especially the Middle East oil.

Israel: Netanyahu Interviewed on Jerusalem, Settlements, Peace Process

NC0708184696 London MBC Television in Arabic
1715 GMT 7 Aug 96

[Interview with Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by correspondent Nabil al-Khatib, in Jerusalem on 4 August; from the "Talk of the Hour" program—recorded; Netanyahu speaks in English with superimposed Arabic translation]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Khatib] We welcome you Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to this program, which we hope we will shed light on the main stances of your new government after the Israeli elections. The first question is that there is an impression in the Middle East—in the region in general and among the Arabs in particular—that the peace process is in jeopardy because of your no's on the land-for-peace principle and the principles of the Madrid conference.

[Netanyahu] Well, first of all, it is a misimpression, because the peace process is continuing not only for the sake of continuing the peace process per se but for the sake of obtaining peace. This is what I want. I want peace, not only the negotiating process but real peace. I even dream of peace with Syria and with other Arab countries, not only with our neighbors. There is already peace with several of our neighbors. But I want to stamp this peace with an official character, beginning with the Palestinians and until the last Arab country.

[Al-Khatib] But what about the land-for-peace principle?

[Netanyahu] Well, I think we have different interpretations as to how much land for how much peace we want. We can spend the rest of the time until the end of my term discussing the different interpretations. We have been through that. We solved this problem at Madrid. We agreed that using the Madrid formula as a term of reference enables the peace process to start. For example, we recognized Resolutions 242 and 338 as terms of reference. All the participants in Madrid approved of this. We did this when Likud was in power. I too approve of these terms of reference. With this benchmark, I propose that we move forward. Let us keep away from slogans. The slogans are only good for stopping the march. They do not help to start it. Let us keep away from slogans and let us start negotiating and moving forward.

[Al-Khatib] But what I mean, Mr. Prime Minister, is that you have raised the security-for-peace slogan instead of the land-for-peace slogan.

[Netanyahu] Every element of peace must contain security. What is the meaning of peace if it does not end

wars, fear, and terrorism. Peace cannot survive in an atmosphere of war, fear, and terrorism. I believe my interpretation of peace is correct. Everyone who is seeing your program agrees with me. This is what we want. I prefer to avoid generalities. I would like to negotiate with all our neighbors. We and the Palestinians have agreed on the reestablishment of a leading steering committee. Agreement on this committee was reached during the meeting between chairman 'Arafat and Foreign Minister Levi. Let us reactivate this track.

We are now talking with Syria, through the United States, on restarting bilateral talks. Let us reactivate this track. I hope that this will reactivate and restart the talks with the Lebanese Government. Let us also reactivate this track. I am prepared to act on all tracks and not only to discuss the negotiating procedures. I do not want to delay things or deceive anyone. I want a real process that will lead to a real peace. I do not know why somebody would object to this. Everybody should seek this. I have had a good dialogue with President Mubarak and good contacts with Jordanian Prime Minister al-Kabiriti. I believe we have started a good and fruitful dialogue with the Palestinian Authority [PA]. Let us get beyond the public disagreements and into substance.

[Al-Khatib] Prime Minister, I am referring to your recent decision about the settlements and the increasing number of settlers in the West Bank. The general impression is that this decision will not leave anything to negotiate about in the permanent status negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

[Netanyahu] We have made a decision not to discriminate against the inhabitants of the Jewish settlements in the territories. They have children, you know. I mean there is a natural population growth. Arab families are familiar with this development: The son gets married and has children of his own and a need arises to have more living space. This is a very natural thing. The settlements experienced this growth phenomenon in the days of the former Labor government. There was 50 percent population growth, higher than the natural population growth in the territories, but the former government had an official policy of restraining that growth. We wish to let the growth proceed normally in the settlements by adopting a normal policy. We have made no new policies but simply decided to remove obstacles. We have not decided on any policy with regard to any new settlements. This is left to the future.

[Al-Khatib] What are your ideas on this issue? Many members of your government are calling for building new settlements.

[Netanyahu] When I have fresh news, I will be happy to announce it on MBC television. I have always found

an opportunity to be interviewed by you whenever important events are taking place.

[Al-Khatib] I wish to repeat my question about Israel's position on Jerusalem. Amid the current slogans, do you think there will be anything left to negotiate over with the Palestinians in the permanent status negotiations, that is if these negotiations are destined to be held at all?

[Netanyahu] We must draw a dividing line. It is clear that there is a debate over the settlements, although this issue was not covered by the Oslo agreements. The settlements issue was not discussed in Oslo at all, but was left for the permanent status negotiations. However, a clear agreement was signed by the PA— which was called the PLO in those days—saying that during the interim stage the PA will not carry out any political or governmental actions in Jerusalem. Regrettably, this agreement was not observed. Now we are being asked to fulfill the former Israeli Government's commitments. I am doing that now. I honestly declared that I didn't like those commitments when they were made, but I am implementing them now. I am willing to move forward on all fronts. I intend to implement every commitment made with regard to the interim agreement. However, I expect a similar level of commitment from the PA. The PA is not adhering to its commitments when it comes to Jerusalem. It has several offices in the city. I have telephoned Mr. 'Arafat on this issue and Foreign Minister David Levi wrote a letter specifying the violations of the agreement that must be remedied. I expect treatment in kind. The PA must observe the agreements on Jerusalem. On my part, I assure you that we intend to fulfill all our obligations without exception.

[Al-Khatib] Then you are not satisfied with the level of Palestinian adherence to the peace agreement?

[Netanyahu] Well, I think there are obvious violations which must be remedied. Look, the PA comes to me and says that I must adhere to this or that point. I answer: All right, it was not me who failed to adhere to this or that point but the former Labor government. That government was totally committed to the Oslo agreements. Then why didn't it adhere to those points? I tell you: because all the points which were not implemented are linked to the security question in one way or another. And this is because the PA did not implement all its pledges to restrain terrorism. For this reason, we have this closure of the territories, for example. I don't like the closure at all and prefer to have economic openness. Actually, I have eased and reduced the closure. If security conditions permit, I intend to ease it even more. We will then end the closure and allow the Palestinians to work in Israel. My method is utterly

simple: Let them fulfill their commitments according to the agreement and we will do the same. It is very simple. In this way we can build confidence, and we do need to build confidence.

[Al-Khatib] But senior figures in the Israeli security services have expressed admiration for the security cooperation with the Palestinian side?

[Netanyahu] Yes, this is true. There has been improvement, but remember that there was little effort until the explosions that occurred a few months before the Israeli elections. Action was taken after these explosions, but it was incomplete. Not all that was agreed on was implemented, though there was more action after the terrorist attacks than there was before them. This should be a constant policy and not a seasonal one. You cannot decide to act against terrorism one day and then open the door wide to it the next day. This is unacceptable. But I believe that the Palestinians and all the Arabs listening to me now have to remove the inflexible and prejudiced ideas. There is much suspicion and lack of confidence. Here is sitting a man who wants peace and was elected on this basis. This means a peace agreement. Every agreement must be complied with by both sides. I am not asking the others to do what I myself cannot do. If both sides fulfill their obligations, then we will move to the next stage, which is even more difficult. But we have to build bridges of confidence if we want to proceed forward toward more difficult stages, that is toward the permanent solution.

[Al-Khatib] Mr. Prime Minister. Why do you believe that there is no need for meeting the Palestinian president in order to give momentum to the peace process, specially on the Palestinian track? He is your partner in the peace process and it is apparent that this is necessary for the peace process?

[Netanyahu] Why did I think that you would ask me this question? I was asked this question several times. We are doing what we said we intend to do. We said that we would start unofficial contacts. We did so. I said that we would continue with official contacts. We did so. I said that we would activate the leading committee in charge of the official track. We did so. I also said that I would meet with Mr. 'Arafat if I believe that there is a need to do so. But we will see as to when.

[Al-Khatib] But you do not yet feel that the meeting is urgently need to give impetus to the process with the Palestinians?

[Netanyahu] I believe that it is important to move forward. I am implementing the mechanisms for moving the process forward. I do not want stagnation and I believe that the Palestinian side also does not want stag-

nation. But I insist on compliance with the agreements by both sides and not by the Israeli side alone. I am insisting that the Palestinian side also comply with it. I am insisting on mutual compliance, as I am insisting on security. Security is a danger for both of us. As you know, if another bus is blown up, not only Jews and Arabs will be killed, but the progress of the process as well. That would be a real danger to any progress. Such an explosion would be targeting progress and not only Jews and Arabs. Third, I insist on Jerusalem, as agreed on. I am not the only one who believes firmly in this. There are others who have other strong beliefs in their hearts. But there is an agreement.

[Al-Khatib] But the understanding on Jerusalem concerned the transitional stage only?

[Netanyahu] That is correct. I am talking about the interim agreement.

[Al-Khatib] Does this mean that issues such as Jerusalem are still open for negotiation in the final solution?

[Netanyahu] We have different views. I believe that there will be enough time to discuss this. The PA has agreed to some things but has not complied with some fundamental points, such as the National Palestinian Charter. I want to see this charter repealed in full. I understand that there are difficulties in this.

[Al-Khatib] Are you happy with 'Arafat's message on this?

[Netanyahu] First, there was a warm greeting in this message from Mr. 'Arafat, which I appreciated. This greeting was not in vain. But, I found out that it was the same message sent to Peres with the same greetings. I am not asking them for beginning action on the Charter, but completion of it. What we simply want is a situation where Israel's right to exist is not subject to argument. I do not query the Palestinians' right to exist or the Arab peoples' right to exist. I do not have doubts about this, but want to live with them in peace and prosperity. Prosperity in this context goes in a parallel line with peace. I intend to discuss ways of increasing economic cooperation between Israel and the Arab world with all the Arab countries' leaders and all the Arab leaders who deal with Israel.

[Al-Khatib] You appear to believe that this prosperity can be achieved without peace treaties with Syria, Lebanon, or the Palestinians.

[Netanyahu] It is possible, of course, but this is not what I prefer. You can have economic prosperity without formal peace. There are countries that trade with each other even in a climate of war. It is clear that this is

not what we are living through now nor what we want to get eventually. I wish to move the peace process forward. I also believe that it is necessary to have open economic relations. First of all, this will mean an easing of the closure on the Palestinians and instead of merely reactivating formerly frozen plans, one can develop them further. It is this that I want. Secondly, it also means proceeding with some joint projects with Jordan and Egypt which have been halted, including power generating projects that will serve all of our countries. It also means trade exchanges between Israel and all the Arab countries. In this context, I believe that we can expect one or two surprises.

[Al-Khatib] Perhaps you can share this news with our viewers.

[Netanyahu] If I have a surprise, I wish to keep it a surprise. You must give me another opportunity to reveal it.

[Al-Khatib] Mr. Prime Minister, this question is perhaps the last one about the Palestinian negotiating track. It concerns your expectations about the level of Israeli commitment to completing the redeployment of forces in the West Bank, specifically in areas B and C.

[Netanyahu] It is hard to say now because we began late. You know that the elections altered the timetable. Even assuming that everything has been adhered to and that the two parties have settled their differences, I still think it is unlikely to adhere faithfully to the original timetable. However, if I find a similar willingness on the Palestinian side, then we can move ahead without delay. In fact, we can move fast because on our side we have no reason to delay.

[Al-Khatib] Does this attitude apply to the resumption of final status negotiations?

[Netanyahu] Sure, there is an agreed-upon arrangement. The Oslo agreements provided a special arrangement for the Palestinian-Israeli track. We have inherited the Oslo agreements. It is true that I originally opposed the Oslo agreements, but I accept them now. We have responsible government here. If one government concludes an agreement, the next government will adhere to it, of course provided that the other party adheres to it also. The Oslo agreements provide for interim stages along which we are now moving. The elections delayed us a little. We are now following a slightly different timetable, but we will move forward.

[Al-Khatib] Is it for this reason that the redeployment of forces in Hebron has not taken place and has been delayed?

[Netanyahu] No, redeployment in Hebron was delayed under the former government, which signed an agreement that it knew very well that it could not adhere because of the difficulty of the Hebron issue. It is a city where Jews and Arabs live together and which was the scene of two great tragedies. The first was the massacre of the Jews in 1929 and the second was the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. As you know, in the first incident Jews were massacred and in the second Arabs were massacred. Hebron is a place that can explode at any time. The former government did not have the wish or intention to implement what it had agreed upon. Practically, it turned this issue over to me. This was not a wise action by Mr. Peres. However, I do not wish to freeze the Hebron issue. I want a solution. If the Palestinian side is willing to understand that we need to be strict about security in any agreement over Hebron, we will make progress.

[Al-Khatib] Let us move to the Syrian-Lebanese-Israeli topic. You have put forth the principle, idea, or slogan of Lebanon first. Do you really believe that this proposal is pragmatic and can receive a positive response in Beirut and Damascus?

[Netanyahu] I do not preclude negotiations with Syria on all issues. If Syria wants to submit its viewpoint regarding the Golan Heights, which is different from our viewpoint, it can do so when we resume the talks. I am not telling President al-Asad to ignore the Golan Heights issue as a precondition for starting talks. I am not making any preconditions, although we feel that Lebanon is being used as a staging point for Hizballah terrorist operations against us in Northern Israel—not only against Israeli soldiers in southern Lebanon but also against our northern villages. We know that Hizballah enjoys not only Iranian support but also receives Syrian logistic support. I am not telling President al-Asad to stop terrorism from Lebanon against our villages as a precondition for starting the talks. I have strong feelings about this, but I don't put them as preconditions. So I think we should first enter into negotiations.

In Lebanon we have a potential flashpoint. The problem in Lebanon is escalation. Statistics show that there has been constant escalation since 1991. Escalation is not good for us or Syria. No one knows where it will lead. However, I know it will lead to a result harmful to peace. I believe we should defuse the situation in Lebanon. For us, this is a problem that can be easily solved. We do not want one inch of Lebanese territory. We are prepared to leave Lebanon if we can guarantee our security and the interests of our allies in southern Lebanon.

[Al-Khatib] What are your conditions for leaving southern Lebanon?

[Netanyahu] I want to be sure that there will be no terrorist attacks against us and that Hizballah would not be in a position as a fighting military organization to attack us.

[Al-Khatib] But Hizballah says it will continue to fighting the Israeli forces as long as they remain there [in southern Lebanon].

[Netanyahu] Well, I want to find one Arab country that is prepared to work in accordance with this pledge. I have not found anyone prepared to do this. I do not care about slogans. But I find myself in a strange situation. An Israeli leader is being asked to leave Lebanon. I say I am prepared to leave Lebanon. I do not covet one inch of Lebanese territory. All we want is to protect our security and the interests of our allies in southern Lebanon. This is all we want. But I am being told that this proposal is an insult to the Arab nation, to its interests, and to the Arab cause. I cannot understand this logic. I believe that my proposal is a good way to build confidence. Lebanon is good starting point. This does not mean ending the process but starting it and building confidence.

[Al-Khatib] Allow me then to ask you about reports of secret contacts between Syrian envoys and Israel regarding this issue. Was there a positive reaction?

[Netanyahu] I am not responsible for press reports.

[Al-Khatib] Was there positive reaction from the Arab capitals regarding the Lebanon First idea, Mr. Prime Minister?

[Netanyahu] I have read the Syrian press, which was very critical of this proposal. But I believe there is a misunderstanding in Damascus. There is a belief that this proposal is an Israeli trap for Syria. It is not a trap but the best way to defuse the Syrian-Israeli conflict. We know that Hizballah does not and cannot act alone. We know that if we can stop the Hizballah terrorist attacks, this will not only be good for Israel and Lebanon but also for Syria. This is because the constant bombardment of Lebanon is not in anybody's interest. I personally believe this is a way to build a climate of confidence. When the Israelis are asked to make concessions to Syria, many of them do not share my view or reservations. They ask how can a deal be reached with a country that facilitates and supports terrorist efforts against us. It is said that the terrorists' aim is to oust us from southern Lebanon. We say we are prepared to leave Lebanon. In return, we are being told: No, you must stay in Lebanon so that we can keep bombing you. This is illogical. In general, we do not accept the idea of staying so that we can remain a target

of terrorism without any response from us. This is not a good idea or an acceptable solution.

[Al-Khatib] One day before you leave for the Jordanian capital, Amman, are you hoping that King Husayn will play a specific role between you and Syria in the negotiations? Reports said that a secret meeting was held between you and King Husayn in London?

[Netanyahu] I will be delighted to have the aid of any party. I had a constructive and fruitful dialogue with President Mubarak and King Husayn. They are two responsible leaders. Both of them and I have the same desire to expand the circle of peace. But the matter depends in the end on Syria. I think that if Israel and Syria could sit down together — and I think this is possible — I have no doubts at all about the possibility of removing any obstacles to reaching a real and permanent peace between us. This is not easy, but it is not beyond our capabilities.

[Al-Khatib] And you and Syria will pay the required price in return for this peace?

[Netanyahu] This is what the negotiations are for. There are differences in views on a number of issues, including the Golan Heights. But I believe that Lebanon is the right place for starting to defuse the tension and remove the lack of confidence and suspicions we have. I believe that this will benefit the cause of peace, because we have in fact two possibilities: Either move toward peace or move away from it. It is difficult to remain stagnant. I do not want to stay where I am, but to move forward.

[Al-Khatib] Let us imagine that you and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad meet. What will you talk about if you continue to rule out the possibility of the Israeli forces withdrawing from the Syrian Golan?

[Netanyahu] I do not exclude his right to state his position and he cannot exclude my right to state mine. This is how we started in Madrid. I do not believe that we have made much progress since then. We were outside the government for four years. If it is in my power to involve Syria or the Syrian leadership directly, then it is possible to make quicker progress. There are many areas in which there can be give and take, and others in which there is mutual interest without give and take. We are not yet free to explore or discuss these areas because we are not in the midst of a negotiations process. I believe that we must resume this process and keep open minds.

[Al-Khatib] What do you think then of the notion of holding a new Madrid conference?

[Netanyahu] I believe that the Madrid formula is a good term of reference and have always thought so. I do not

see a need for a new conference in itself, but I am willing to take this notion into consideration when it is proposed to me.

[Al-Khatib] The impression is that the Syrian-Israeli front has been the quietest since 1967, or let us say, since 1973. Do you really want a peace agreement or a peace treaty with Syria?

[Netanyahu] Yes. I believe that this will be beneficial in the long term, because treaties last a certain period of time and are not alternatives for security, trust, or normalization. Treaties facilitate these things. Treaties alone cannot last but are an important prop of the peace process, which I intend to get into with Syria. I like to see the contacts we now have with almost all the Arab countries. [pauses] I do not know the extent of your station's coverage, but all the viewers watching this program now are living in countries whose governments have made some sort of contacts with us. I do not mean the previous government but the present one. I welcome this and I would like to formalize in advance the contacts with each of the Arab countries. I would like this government to be the one that expands the circle of peace most broadly and most profoundly to every corner of the Arab world.

[Al-Khatib] I mean your rejection of the land-for-peace principle?

[Netanyahu] As I said, we have two tracks. Regarding the Palestinian track, we have the Oslo agreements. There are straightforward negotiations and we are ready to resume and follow them up. As for the Syrian track, we have the Madrid formula as a term of conference. It is acceptable to us and negotiations can be held according to it. The outcome of these negotiations could not be anticipated now and I believe that they will be difficult and complex. But we will participate in them with good intentions. I am a difficult negotiator and that is the least to be expected from an Israeli leader elected by the Israeli public, not to derail peace but to bring real peace that will last. In Israel, saying yes, yes, yes in all stages of negotiations does not necessarily mean reaching a peace that can last or a peace that enjoys the full support of the Israelis. You cannot make peace with half the Israeli people. One of this government's qualities is that it can bring peace at the negotiations table that enjoys the support of all the people. When we make flexible decisions on a give and take basis — and this means peace could include security, the economy, and other fields — and when we make a necessary decision for the sake of peace, they will enjoy the full support of the Israeli public.

You might have toured Israel and noted that this government enjoys the support of major sectors of the

population, including those Israelis who doubted our commitment to peace. These doubts are disappearing daily. When I talk to the Arabs — I of course want to benefit from your good endeavor to allow me to address the Arab world on important occasions if you invite me — within one, two, or three years, our desire for peace will be clearer.

[Al-Khatib] Thank you Prime Minister for this opportunity and thanks from MBC.

[Netanyahu] Always welcome, thank you.

Israel: Justice Minister Ne'eman Resigns Due To Police Probe

TA0808095496 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
0915 GMT 8 Aug 96

[Report by Etti Perez — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Here is some sensational news: The justice minister is resigning. This morning, Justice Minister Ya'akov Ne'eman informed the prime minister of his desire to resign from the cabinet. His move came in the wake of a telephone call he received this morning from Attorney General Mikhel Ben-Ya'ir advising him that Ben-Ya'ir was about to inform the High Court of his decision to instruct the police to launch an investigation against the minister.

A reminder: The investigation follows reporter Yo'av Yitzhak's appeal against Ne'eman's appointment as justice minister, based on various criminal or allegedly criminal matters, the foremost being a case that is still on the High Court's agenda concerning the disruption of legal investigative proceedings in the matter of Der'i case witness Martin Braun, whom the justice minister — then a private attorney — allegedly admonished for speaking out against Der'i during a police investigation. [passage omitted]

We have just received the justice minister's reaction: The attorney general's decision is entirely unfounded, and it was another move in his endeavor to preserve his position as attorney general. Minister Ne'eman's statement adds that he will place himself at the government's disposal to enable an immediate, speedy investigation that will prove his innocence and show that the charges against him on distributing legal proceedings are unfounded. The minister further states that since the attorney general has informed the High Court of the instructions given to the police to launch an investigation against him, it would be inappropriate for him to retain his position as justice minister. His resignation will stand until the end of the investigation. The justice minister states that while he is certain that his innocence will be confirmed, he does not think he can remain in

his position while a police investigation against him is under way.

Israel: Prime Minister's Bureau Reacts to Ne'eman Resignation

TA0808104496 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
1005 GMT 8 Aug 96

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The prime minister's bureau has issued a statement saying that Mr. Netanyahu fully backs the resigning justice minister. The prime minister believes the resignation will be for a brief period, and to demonstrate this assumption, he will appoint only a temporary acting justice minister. The prime minister's bureau estimates that Ya'akov Ne'eman's move does not mean that he is quitting his position, but rather that he is in the midst of an investigative procedure, from which he will emerge radiantly exonerated. When that happens, he will return to his office as justice minister.

The names for an acting justice minister that the guessing market is already throwing around include that of Dan Meridor. It remains to be seen whether the prime minister will offer him the position, and then whether he will accept.

Israel: Crisis With Mordekhay; Levi Quitting Feasible

TA0708190896 *Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew* 1700 GMT 7 Aug 96

[Video report by political editor Gadi Sukenik and political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Anchor Micky Haimowitz] A new crisis is threatening the government. Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordekhay has expressed his displeasure at the way the prime minister has been conducting the contacts with the Palestinians and the deliberations on the issue of Hebron.

Meanwhile, the crisis with Foreign Minister David Levi has worsened. After closed-door consultations held throughout the day today, the foreign minister told his associates that he may very soon be called upon to make difficult decisions. His resignation looks like a feasible reality tonight. Here are the reports of our correspondents Gadi Sukenik and 'Imanu'el Rosen.

[Begin recording] [Sukenik] Senior cabinet ministers reported this morning for yet another session in Binyamin Netanyahu's political-security kitchen. Then, the inner security cabinet was summoned, but Levi did not show up. The foreign minister closeted himself in Tel Aviv

the whole morning and, perhaps symbolically, not in his office in the Foreign Ministry but in the Gesher offices. He refused to be photographed and slipped out the back of the building to his car. [passage omitted]

Gesher's Knesset faction and other leading activists called on Levi this afternoon. The tones in the meeting, which ended only a short time ago, were harsh.

[Gesher Knesset Member, MK, Yehuda Lancry] If there is no serious amendment of the distortions and of the total collapse we are witnessing from the governmental point of view and not just as far as the Foreign Ministry is concerned, then we will draw the conclusions with all that this implies.

[Gesher MK Mikha'el Kleiner] What is clear is that David Levi will not agree to be foreign minister in name only.

[Sukenik] Here is what could be seen as the official resolution read by Levi's spokesman:

[Spokesman Ya'aqov Bardugo] We did not shackle ourselves to a timetable; however, I believe that a decision will be made in the very near future due to the serious circumstances and the special situation that has been created.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 7 August adds: "The leaders of Gesher today empowered Levi to take any steps, including his resignation from the government, if the crisis with Netanyahu is not settled."]

[Sukenik] Appeals by middlemen on behalf of the prime minister received no response from the offended Levi. At this point, we do not know of a direct appeal from Netanyahu to Levi.

[Rosen] Not only David Levi but also Defense Minister Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the prime minister's right-hand man, is angry and believes that Netanyahu is using Dani Nave and a bunch of advisers too much and the ministers — the defense minister, in this case — too little. Mordekhay believes that the staff work on Hebron has been sloppy and unprofessional and that similar sloppiness caused an unnecessary two-week delay in the decision to lift the freeze on settlement. This is Mordekhay's opinion, but at the moment there is no chance of him emulating Levi's steps.

The crisis in the government's top echelons centers around the sensitive negotiations with the Palestinians, with Levi demanding to lead these negotiations, while Netanyahu wants this role for himself. The disagreements between Netanyahu and Levi apply to all issues. Foreign Ministry officials claim that since early August, Dore Gold has been holding contacts on the Syrian is-

sue with the U.S. Administration behind the backs of Levi and the Israeli ambassador in Washington.

The trip to Jordan on 5 August: Netanyahu did not take with him even one representative of the Foreign Ministry.

Morocco: Dore Gold had been trying to coordinate a visit by the prime minister with the help of U.S. middlemen and behind the back of the Israeli representation there. The attempt failed.

The Gulf states: Between 17 and 20 July, Dore Gold was sent on his own to Oman and Qatar. The Foreign Ministry received a partial and fragmented report.

The United States: The Foreign Ministry played no part in Netanyahu's visit, while the ambassador was a junior participant.

Europe: The Foreign Ministry and the embassies received no report on the lengthy talks Netanyahu held with German Chancellor Kohl and British Prime Minister Major. Netanyahu sent Levi with a written message to Kohl, but then Levi found out that Kohl had received the message directly from the prime minister.

Staffers in the prime minister's bureau sneer at Levi's claims and even mock them. This is an artificial crisis, they say, a crisis over prestige. Netanyahu briefs Levi about everything, and it is Levi who does not share the information with Foreign Ministry workers and cannot control the disorder in his office. Well then, communication difficulties are not confined only to al-Asad and 'Arafat. [end recording]

[Haimowitz] We are now going back to our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen in the newsroom. The crisis actually began as a result of a dispute over who will conduct the negotiations with the Palestinians. This evening, you will tell us who the prime minister's leading candidates to head the steering committee for the negotiations with the Palestinians are.

[Rosen] First of all, we can announce that the prime minister has withdrawn Dani Nave's candidacy and is currently contemplating two former chiefs of staff: Moshe Levi and Dan Shomron. He wants one of them to conduct the negotiations with the Palestinians. A proposal in this spirit is supposed to be relayed to David Levi, with the intention that the candidate will be acceptable to both of them. Perhaps in the wake of such a development, the negotiations on the redeployment in Hebron may begin to budge.

This evening, we can announce for the first time some indications to this effect. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Mordekhay and 'Arafat will meet on 18 August in Gaza,

and the redeployment in Hebron will be accompanied with some steps to appease the Jewish settlers in the territories. We can announce two of them: the expansion of the Jewish settlement in Hebron, and the imminent approval of the transfer of dozens of trailers to the settlements, with the official reason being that these will be used as classrooms in the territories.

[At 1730 GMT the announcer adds: "The defense minister's media adviser has informed us that Minister Mordekhai denies that he is critical of the prime minister's bureau and notes that his relations with Netanyahu and his bureau are good. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen nevertheless reports that associates of the defense minister confirm the report at the start of our program."]

Israel: Senior Levi Aide—Netanyahu, Levi Compromise 'Near'

NC0808081396 Paris AFP in English
0803 GMT 8 Aug 96

[Report by David Millikin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Aug 8 (AFP) — Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Foreign Minister David Levi are near to a compromise on sharing responsibility for the peace process, ending a dispute that threatened to undermine Israel's rightwing government, a senior official said Thursday [8 August].

"We expect a solution to the crisis before the weekly cabinet meeting Friday morning," a senior associate of Levi told AFP on condition of anonymity.

He said close aides to Levi and Netanyahu held talks late Wednesday and that consultations were continuing Thursday to find an acceptable way to bring Levi into the decision-making process, notably concerning the Palestinian peace track.

Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, a powerful figure in Netanyahu's Likud party and close ally of Levi, and Ariel Deri of the ultra-Orthodox Shas party which holds 10 seats in the governing coalition, were leading the mediation effort, officials said.

Members of Levi's Geshar party threatened Thursday to withdraw their support from the government if Netanyahu continued to exclude their leader from diplomatic initiatives concerning the Palestinian and other tracks of the peace process.

"Geshar has discovered serious mismanagement in the prime minister's office which the public is unaware of and if this is not corrected by Mr. Netanyahu, Geshar will quit the government and will take other groups with

it," David Magen, a deputy minister and Geshar deputy, said on Israel radio.

Geshar controls five seats in the 120-member Knesset, where Netanyahu's coalition holds a majority with 66 seats.

Senior officials say Levi, a long-time political rival of Netanyahu, has been bristling virtually since the government took office in June over being excluded from diplomacy concerning the peace process.

Levi was left out of Netanyahu's three foreign trips — to Washington, Egypt and Jordan — although he has been the highest ranking official in the new government to meet Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

Aides say the last straw came for Levi when Netanyahu indicated that he would name his cabinet secretary, Danny Naveh, to head the steering committee overseeing negotiations with the Palestinians. Levi had wanted to control the committee himself.

The close aide to the foreign minister said the compromise being worked out would involve naming a former army chief of staff — either Don Shomron or Moshe Levi — to head the steering committee.

Netanyahu would also put in writing an agreement on the modalities of sharing responsibility for the peace process between the prime minister's office and the foreign ministry, he said.

The row between Netanyahu and Levi, who has already twice threatened to quit the cabinet in rows over ministerial appointments, has virtually paralyzed activity at the foreign ministry, officials said.

Levi stayed away from a key cabinet session Wednesday and has been making only token appearances at his foreign ministry office, they said.

In further signs of the trouble caused by the dispute, the Jerusalem Post newspaper reported Thursday that Levi had rejected requests to visit Israel from at least two foreign ministers, from Mexico and an east European state.

And when a ministry spokesman indicated on Wednesday that a Levi visit to Egypt was being planned, the ministry quickly backtracked with a statement denying any such trip was on the cards.

Israel: Adviser — Netanyahu Still Awaits 'Positive' al-Assad Reply

TA0708192196 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1800 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The prime minister's media adviser says Israel does not regard Syrian President

Hafiz al-Asad's remarks in a news conference in Cairo as slamming the door on the peace process. Israel is still awaiting a positive response to the proposals relayed to the Syrian president, he said.

Israel: Egyptian Envoy Links Economic Summit to Talks Resumption

TA0808093696 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 8 Aug 96 p 1

[Report by David Harris]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The regional economic summit planned for Cairo in November could be in jeopardy if peace talks do not resume by next month, Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni said yesterday.

He said in an interview that he believed the summit will be linked to the restarting of talks between Israel and Syria, Lebanon, and the Palestinians.

There had been speculation recently that Egypt might cancel the summit unless Israel showed signs of resuming talks. No such ultimatum has been officially issued, but according to Basyuni, "the idea of the summit is to show the fruits of peace. How can there be economic cooperation without peace?"

Basyuni did say, however, he expects peace talks will resume soon, allowing the summit to go ahead.

One senior government source said last night that he had "heard rumors" the Egyptians might cancel the summit. Officially both the Foreign Ministry and Industry and Trade Ministry say they are proceeding on the assumption the summit will take place.

"The Trade Administration was, as of Tuesday [6 August], preparing for the summit, along with the Foreign Ministry and economic organizations," the Industry and Trade Ministry said in a statement.

This was backed up by Foreign Ministry spokesman Dani Shek. "We do not know of any intent to cancel from Israel's side and preparations are going ahead vigorously," he said.

Senior government sources said that canceling the summit would have a more negative impact on Egypt than on Israel. "They'll be shooting themselves in the foot," said one source. A different government source said that international conferences organized by politicians are not known to generate business.

MK [Knesset member] Yosi Beilin (Labor) said he had heard from contacts that Egypt is indeed linking the summit to the peace process. "I hope they won't use this weapon," Beilin said. "There is a danger that the

summit will go ahead, but not at the same level as in the past, or it may even be canceled completely."

If the summit is canceled, it could affect some business deals. Groups of US businessmen and the presidents of 28 major Japanese corporations are scheduled to attend the parley before coming here.

The Japanese, in particular, invest where there is political stability, and the peace talks play a major part in this, said Max Livnat, economic attache in Tokyo.

Israel: Turkey Stand 'Anxiously' Followed After Officials' Remarks

TA0808081196 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0400 GMT 8 Aug 96

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jerusalem is anxiously following the developments in Turkey. A report sent by Israel's ambassador to Ankara mentions several statements by senior members of the Turkish Islamic Welfare Party that border on anti-Semitism. The most striking of these was the observation of the prime minister himself, who said the Israeli flag symbolizes the map of Zionist expansionism from the Euphrates to the Tigris.

The new Turkish prime minister will visit Iran in two days. The United States, which has so far refrained from criticizing the new regime, announced that it had reservations about the visit. [passage omitted]

Israeli Ambassador Tzvi Alpeleg has met with Erbakan's Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller, the former prime minister, in order to learn how the new government was inclined. The message he communicated to Jerusalem does not paint a rosy picture of the relations between the two countries. It should be noted that Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri was asked not to visit Turkey, although he had been slated to arrive so as to sign another defense agreement. The request was said to be due to technical reasons. Defense officials said it remains to be seen whether the rejection was part of an attempt to set the scene for the Iranian visit or a policy change.

Israel: State Vouches for Turkey Deal; U.S. Said Seeking To Foil It

TA0808115096 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
in Hebrew 8 Aug 96 pp 1, 19

[Report by Nahum Barne'a]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last night, the Finance Ministry's Accountant General Office and the directors of the Israeli banks approved the plan for financing the big

arms deal between Israel and Turkey. The deal, totalling more than \$600 million, includes the upgrading of 54 Phantoms of the Turkish Air Force, which will be performed by the Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI). Turkey will be notified this morning that the deal has been approved.

The deal was signed in August 1995 after 10 years of negotiations. After it was signed, Israeli banks expressed doubts about their ability to provide the credit needed to finance the deal. The banks were concerned about the IAI's financial ability to carry out the deal and about the possibility that the Turks will not meet the payments for political or financial reasons. The banks were afraid that taking too high risks on this issue might harm their solidity.

The Israeli Governments, however, considered the deal very important. Rabin, Peres, and recently Netanyahu pressed for the approval of the deal. Eventually, the state, the IAI (through Elta, the strongest unit in the IAI group), and the banks decided to share the risk.

The IAI, which is under serious economic difficulties, feared that a delay in implementing the deal might cause it to be canceled. Competing U.S. factories and elements in the U.S. Embassy in Ankara had operated against the deal.

Israel: Netanyahu Aide—No Plan Formulated for Hebron Redeployment

*TA0808123196 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic
0930 GMT 8 Aug 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] David Bar-Ilan, head of the policy planning council at the prime minister's bureau, has denied reports about the formulation of a plan on redeployment in Hebron. In an interview with our political affairs correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi, he said that intensive consultations are being held in this regard and that many proposals are being discussed, but so far no plan has been formulated. Bar-Ilan stressed that several redeployment options are currently being examined but that no option has been chosen yet. He said that after the government is assured that the Palestinian side is meeting its commitments in accordance with the agreement signed between the two sides, negotiations on the redeployment issue will begin with the Palestinian side. Bar-Ilan emphasized that the government is committed to the agreements signed with the Palestinian side.

Israel: Hebron Settlers, Peace Now Criticize Redeployment Plan

*TA0808112496 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1000 GMT 8 Aug 96*

[Report by Or Heller]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Both the Hebron settlers and Palestinians were alarmed today by the reports that IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers will be patrolling Arab neighborhoods in the city even after the redeployment. No'am Arnon, spokesman of the Jewish settlers in Hebron, told us: This would cause an explosion in Hebron.

[Begin Arnon recording] We cannot accept the plan if Israel makes terrible mistakes like this one. The withdrawal plan means leaving 90 percent of the city to terrorists who will be able to shoot at us undisturbed. This morning we heard an idea that IDF soldiers will be patrolling the Arab neighborhoods, which is even worse. It will be like Lebanon: An area under the enemy control, where he sets up ambushes, and the IDF soldiers will be walking into it like sitting ducks. This is intolerable and inhuman. [end recording] [passage omitted]

The idea of IDF patrols after the redeployment encounters harsh opposition from Peace Now as well. The movement claims that leaving the IDF soldiers in Hebron will only worsen the friction between the populations.

Israel: New Hebron Redeployment Leaves IDF in Arab Parts of Town

*TA0808050396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0400 GMT 8 Aug 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The forum of senior ministers will finalize the new plan for redeployment in Hebron in the coming days. A senior source told our political correspondent Shlomo Raz that the Palestinians will be told that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will continue patrolling the Arab neighborhoods of Hebron for as long as the security situation remains unstable; it will reduce its presence if the situation improves.

The source noted that Israel will reserve responsibility for the area that includes the Jewish cemeteries, Tall al-Rumaythah, Bet Hadassah, the Jewish Court, the Cave of the Patriarchs, and the eastern Casbah stretching to Qiryat Arba'. The plan will be presented for the approval of the Inner Cabinet and, if approved, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Mordekhay will present it to Yasir 'Arafat perhaps as early as next week.

Israel: International Bodies Finance Islamic Group Funding Hamas

TA0708192896 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1800 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Shin Bet has uncovered a Palestinian organization in Israel which is financed by international bodies and which transfers money to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] branches, activists, and relatives of terrorists under the guise of aid to the needy. The organization in question is the Islamic Salvation Committee, whose Nazareth offices were closed down a few months ago by order of the commander of the Northern Command.

Our correspondent Esti Perez has obtained the response of the State Attorney's Office to the High Court of Justice with regard to an appeal submitted by the organization's lawyers against the closure of its offices. The affidavit shows that the organization extends financial assistance particularly to families of captured or slain Hamas activists, including the relatives of perpetrators of serious terrorist attacks. Among those bodies funding the organization whose names have not been banned for publication are a U.S. fund, British funds, German funds, and a French fund.

Our correspondent points out that the existence of an East Jerusalem nonprofit society with a similar modus operandi was revealed a few weeks ago at another High Court hearing.

Israel: IDF on Hizballah Violations; Lubrani on Monitoring Team

TA0808063096 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0400 GMT 8 Aug 96

[Report by army affairs correspondent Avi Lifshitz]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The response to Hizballah attacks in Lebanon that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has recently hinted at was not late in coming: A radio station of one of the organization's factions and an ammunition depot were raided by the Israeli Air Force this morning. [passage omitted]

Several hours before the attack, last night, another incident took place in Lebanon which caused anger in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. The terrorists fired mortar shells at an SLA [South Lebanese Army] post in the Jazzin enclave. No one was hurt, but one of the shells fell inside a civilian village in the region. Northern Command sources stressed that this was another violation of the understandings attained after Operations Grapes of Wrath, which ban harming civilians on both sides.

Ever since the agreement was made, the IDF collected data on numerous violations by Hizballah. For example, Hizballah activated a bomb inside Marj 'Uyun, which hurt civilians and killed four IDF soldiers. It is also clear that in other attacks, Hizballah squads left for their activities from inside villages north of the security zone. The IDF also has information about shots fired at its units from posts located close to mosques and schools inside the villages.

It seems, therefore, that the first issue on the agenda of the committee monitoring the implementation of the understandings is highly essential. The first meeting, in al-Naqurah this morning, will be only a get-acquainted meeting between Israel's representative Brigadier General David Tzur, commander of the liaison unit with foreign forces, and the representatives of the United States, France, Syria, and Lebanon.

Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, said this morning that he believes the committee will not be dealing with calculations and looking into past complaints, but will mainly focus on preventing future violations, although he has his doubts.

[Begin Lubrani recording] I believe that its activity alone will prove whether it could stand the test of future trouble when they emerge. We should know that, at best, this is a partial solution to our problems in the security zone. [end recording]

Some believe, Lubrani told IDF Radio, that the committee will form a joint forum for the coordination of additional issues but, he says, the Syrians will try to stick to the original written mandate of the committee and prevent attempts to expand it. [passage omitted]

Israel: Peres — Netanyahu Creating 'Uncertainty' on Peace Process

TA0708155696 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
1400 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres says the Netanyahu government in its first 50 days has introduced an Arab indecision regarding the peace process. Peres did not want to comment on the friction between the prime minister and foreign minister, but he said the media had exaggerated the tension within the Labor Party, which he could continue to lead for the next year at least. Shim'on Peres was interviewed by Steve Linde.

[Begin recording] [Linde] Mr. Peres, you are, of course, the head of the opposition, a fighting opposition, and yet it seems that all the fighting is being done inside the party.

[Peres] I don't think so. There is a great deal of exaggeration, and if somebody makes a declaration there is a.... [pauses] It's highly vocal but totally unimportant.

[Linde] Looking towards your own personal future, how long do you intend to be head of the Labor Party?

[Peres] At least for a year, and then we shall see.

[Linde] Is it possible that we can expect you to be head of the party until the next elections?

[Peres] I don't think I have to make right away a decision. I have time to decide.

[Linde] Mr. Peres, I know you have had meetings with Ariel Sharon. Is there any way you would consider joining a national unity government?

[Peres] I don't think this is in the offing.

[Linde] Under what circumstances would you join such a government?

[Peres] I don't think it's for me to propose, and since nobody else proposed, I don't think I have to react to it.

[Linde] But you are holding some contacts with Mr. Sharon.

[Peres] Look, contacts.... [pauses] Traditionally over the years we used to meet from time to time and exchange views. I appreciate these meetings. I wouldn't attach to them undue importance.

[Linde] Talking about Mr. Sharon, there has been a lot of controversy over his decision to build roads in the

territories and, of course, the government's decision to lift the freeze on settlements.

[Peres] I think both of them are a mistake.

[Linde] Could you elaborate at all on that, Mr. Peres?

[Peres] If the problem is traffic, the priority is elsewhere. If the problem is annexation, it's a wrong priority. The stoppage of further building in the West Bank is not a legal one but a political one. I think we must leave options open for the future of the West Bank.

[Linde] Mr. Peres, are you still continuing your contacts with Arab leaders and with the Palestinian Authority?

[Peres] Not as it used to be. From time to time we talk, we meet, but not as actively as it used to be.

[Linde] We have, of course, heard reports such as from Morocco that King Hassan has been so loyal to you that he refuses to talk with Prime Minister Netanyahu.

[Peres] Well, it's his choice.

[Linde] So, just if we can end by going back to the peace process....

[Peres, interrupting] For me, that's the top priority, and I regret very much all the (?holding) operations and the indecision. I think in the 50 days all the government did was to introduce an air of uncertainty, of a lack of a clear option, and we shall be the ones that will pay for it. [end recording]

Jordan: 'Arafat Arrives in al-'Aqabah on 'Brief Working Visit'

*JN0708115196 Amman Radio Jordan Network
in Arabic 1100 GMT 7 Aug 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn was on hand to receive His Excellency Yasir 'Arafat, president of the Palestinian National Authority, who arrived in al-'Aqabah at noon today on a brief working visit to Jordan. He is expected to hold talks with His Majesty King Husayn on the peace process and issues of common interest. Also there to receive him were Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, the head of al-'Aqabah Region Authority, al-'Aqabah governor, and a number of senior civil and military officials. Mahmud 'Abbas, Abu-Mazin, member of the PLO Executive Committee and Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, arrived with 'Arafat.

Before leaving Gaza for al-'Aqabah, President 'Arafat said that his meeting with His Majesty King Husayn is very important and falls within the framework of contacts and coordination between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides and that it embodies the resolutions of the recent Arab summit in Cairo. President 'Arafat said that his talks with His Majesty King Husayn will deal with many important issues, including the continuation of the peace process and ways to overcome obstacles facing this process.

Jordan: Further on King Husayn-'Arafat Talks in al-'Aqabah

*JN0708182696 Amman Radio Jordan in English
1600 GMT 7 Aug 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His Majesty King Husayn has met, in the port city of al-'Aqabah Palestinian, President Yasir 'Arafat. Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti was present at the meeting. The two leaders held a session of talks attended by senior officials from both sides. The two leaders discussed the Middle East peace process and means of supporting it. They also discussed ways of relaunching peace negotiations on all tracks.

The king reviewed with Mr. 'Arafat the outcome of his majesty's talks with Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu last Monday. His majesty reiterated the need on all parties to commit themselves to the peace process and build on what has already been achieved. He also reconfirmed the Jordanian principled and firm position in supporting the Palestinian people in their struggle to restore their legitimate rights on their national soil.

The Palestinian leader informed his majesty on the difficult economic situation in the self-ruled areas because of the six-month old Israeli closure.

The king stressed the need for activating bilateral agreements in all fields in the interest of the twin peoples, and improving the economic conditions for the Palestinian brethren.

The talks were attended from the Jordanian side by Ziyad al-Majali, head of Jordan's representation office to the Palestinian Authority. From the Palestinian side, the talks were attended by Mahmud 'Abbas, PLO's Executive Committee member; Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation; as well as the Palestinian ambassador in Amman.

Jordan: Transport Minister Confers With Palestinian Counterpart

*JN0608182996 Amman Radio Jordan Network
in Arabic 1100 GMT 6 Aug 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] A Jordanian-Palestinian session of talks was held at the Ministry of Transport today. It was led by Nasir al-Lawzi, Jordanian minister of transport, and 'Ali Ibrahim al-Qawasimi, minister of transport in the Palestinian National Authority. The two sides discussed bolstering cooperation in the various fields of transportation. Transport Minister Nasir al-Lawzi spoke to our radio about the meeting. He said:

[Begin al-Lawzi recording] This was an opportunity to discuss ways to promote and expand the cooperation between the transport ministries in the two countries and to discuss activating the agreements concluded last year; namely, the Air Transport agreement and the Land Transport protocol.

We also discussed with his excellency the minister placing the Ministry of Transport departments at the disposal of the Palestinian National Authority. This includes benefiting from technical expertise and advice on how to enforce the well-known rules and regulations applied in Jordan in order to develop the Palestinian Transport Ministry.

We talked about starting flights and activating an airway as previously agreed. There are some topics which will be discussed in detail tomorrow morning during the Palestinian delegation's visit to the Aviation Authority. There are also other issues which must be discussed and clarified between the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli Government before the airway can be launched. [end recording]

Jordan: Columnist Urges Israeli Compliance With Commitments*JN0708183296 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
7 Aug 96 p 22*

[From the "Standpoint" column by Hamadah Para'inah: "Who Commits Aggression Against Jerusalemites?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Netanyahu says: "We have our own views on Jerusalem. They differ from those of the Palestinian Authority. I prefer to stick to the agreed-upon framework for the interim settlement that agreed that there will be no change in the status of Jerusalem and that, indeed, no one should try to change the current status of the city as a united city."

Netanyahu said this at a news conference in Amman two days ago. If he means what he said and if these statements seriously reflect his convictions, they are new and unprecedented, because he admits that the Palestinian-Israeli agreements signed at Oslo and Taba constitute the bases of future talks on the interim-stage issues and Jerusalem, including the fact that no one should try to change the current status of Jerusalem. This makes us ask: Who is changing the status of Jerusalem? The Palestinians or the occupation authorities, which include government and [Jerusalem] municipality authorities. These two authorities have one political approach, represented by the Likud Party.

The Israelis should respect their commitments on the interim-stage issues. These are five issues: Hebron, Area B, Area C, the safe road between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and the release of the detainees. This also applies to the final-status issues: Jerusalem, the settlements, refugees, borders, the crossings, and the water issue. The Israeli measures of tightening the noose around the Arab citizens of Jerusalem, usurping their rights or residence, and expelling them to pave the way for fully Judaizing the city, conflict with Netanyahu's statements.

Nobody is calling for the closure of the city or for building walls between its two parts. The Arabs and Palestinians have a vested interest in keeping it open to Arabs and Israelis alike, to pilgrims and tourists. But the Israeli occupation of the Arab part of Jerusalem — East Jerusalem — must first be dismantled so that the Palestinian National Authority may take over, given the fact that East Jerusalem is part of the Palestinian Arab territories occupied in 1967. Moreover, the provisions enshrined in UN Security Council Resolution 242 apply to East Jerusalem, just as they apply to Gaza, Jericho, Nabulus, Qalqilyah, and the other cities and villages occupied in 1967.

Jordan: Prime Minister Outlines Economic Reform Policy*JN0508100496 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
5 Aug 96 p 3*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (PETRA)—Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti told Parliament Sunday that the economic reform programme applied in Jordan since 1989 has been instrumental in enabling the Kingdom to achieve real economic growth estimated at 6.5 per cent in the Gross Domestic Product this year. He also said the deficit in the fiscal budget went down from 24 per cent in 1989 to 4.1 per cent in 1996.

In an address to the Lower House of Parliament during a special session held to debate the government's plans of floating bread prices, Mr. al-Kabariti said that the economic reform programme has also helped the country to rebuild its foreign currency reserves and stabilise the exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar and has kept inflation rates around four per cent this year, down from nearly 26 per cent in 1989.

Following are major excerpts of Mr. al-Kabariti's address:

Allow me once again to present to you the government's plan for changing the method of subsidy on bread and to compare developments that resulted in an economic crisis in the 1980s to the present situation and the results of the economic reform programme begun in 1989.

1 - Jordan has achieved real growth in its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimated at 6.5 per cent this year compared to a decline in growth estimated at 13.5 per cent in 1989.

2 - The government reduced the deficit in the fiscal budget from 24 per cent in 1989 to 4.1 per cent this year.

3 - The Kingdom succeeded in rebuilding its foreign currency reserves to levels sufficient to finance imports from three months, while the coffers were in the red in 1989.

4 - The country succeeded in curbing inflation, keeping it down at four per cent this year down from 26 per cent in 1989.

5 - It reduced the foreign debts to less than 100 per cent of GDP this year down from nearly 200 per cent in 1989.

6 - It reduced the overall consumption rates in GDP terms which helped the country to increase its local savings to 15 per cent for this year, compared to minus four per cent in 1988. This has led to a rise in the rate of investments to 33.4 of the GDP in 1996.

The positive achievements could not have been realised without the reform programme, which allowed Jordan to receive financial assistance from the world community and creditor countries which rescheduled Jordan's foreign debts and gave the country soft loans that contributed to its monetary, financial and economic stability.

The recurrent deficit in the fiscal budgets constituted the main reasons for the economic crisis towards the end of the 1980s. Public spending in excess of revenues forced the successive governments to cover the deficit through borrowing, which brought in further debt burdens and gradually depleted the Kingdom's foreign currency reserves. The successive governments in the past six years have, however, succeeded in continually reducing the deficit and by the end of the year the deficit will hopefully stand at no more than 3.8 per cent of the GDP.

You realise that the present government is committed to the economic and social reform programme and hopes to retain the same living standards through subsidising basic foodstuffs despite price increases on the world markets.

But the government has found out that continuing subsidies in their present form have led to imbalances caused by:

- 1 - Abuse of subsidised commodities, especially wheat which was used by some as animal feed in view of its relatively low price.
- 2 - Increases in consumption of subsidised commodities per capita consumption increased to a level 150 per cent higher than levels in other developing countries.
- 3 - Subsidies benefited sectors which do not deserve them.
- 4 - Subsidised foodstuffs have been smuggled to neighbouring countries.

These imbalances led to the importation of different amounts of imported commodities coupled with increases in pressure on the Kingdom's foreign currency reserves. The increase in the cost of subsidy has led to a higher budget deficit.

This year, the government has allocated JD38 million [Jordanian dinars] to subsidise foodstuff and animal feed and cereal production but the amount proved insufficient to cover the first quarter of 1996, largely due to the major hikes in prices on world markets. The wheat prices rose from \$132 a tonne in 1995 to \$276 a tonne this year while the price of barley rose from \$75 a tonne in 1995 to \$175 in 1996. The prices of other

commodities increased by at least 20 per cent over the 1995 figures.

In light of this sharp rise in prices, coupled with increases in consumption of these commodities, maintaining the subsidies at their current level would have required JD180 million which would have meant incurring a budget deficit of JD124 million. This means increasing the deficit from 3.8 per cent to 6.8 per cent of the GDP. This would have been the highest rate reached throughout the past five years. This situation has prompted the government to re-examine the subsidy system. The following alternative to the current system of subsidies were considered:

- 1 - Increasing bread prices in one go or gradually without offering compensation for the difference in price. But the government concluded that this would increase the burden on the low income groups
- 2 - Employing the food coupons for bread but this idea was found to be difficult to apply on a daily basis.
- 3 - Producing a low-quality loaf but this idea was ruled out on the grounds that it would create negative social impact.
- 4 - Covering the deficit in the budget that would ensue from continuing to subsidise the bread in the present form by increasing the sales taxes or increasing the price of fuel. This idea was later discarded because it would cause sharp rise in inflation rates and would overburden the poor sectors.

The government has finally decided that the best method of dealing with this issue would be changing the form of providing the subsidy, offering direct financial assistance to the public. That method would ensure that there will be no wastage or smuggling of subsidised commodities. To carry out this plan the government has drawn up specific measures that were found most convenient for the public and these include the following:

- 1 - Offering each citizen JD1.28 a month except for the recipients of the assistance from the National Aid fund (NAF) who would receive JD2.080 a month.
- 2 - Distributing the subsidy to different sectors as follows: Military personnel civil servants, military and civilian pensioners and pensioners on the pay roll of the Social Security Corporation will have their compensation for the bread prices added to their salaries. Workers in other institutions will also receive the compensation added to their salaries but other citizens can obtain the financial subsidy from 379 post offices which offer the postal savings services in addition to eight major banks which together have 410 branches around the Kingdom.

to facilitate matters to the Jordanian citizens, beneficiaries should produce family books which determine the number of family members entitled to the subsidy. As for residents from Gaza, they can produce their Jordanian passports to receive the subsidy.

3 - Livestock breeders keeping up to 100 sheep will be entitled to JD6 for each head of sheep.

The government has found that this plan will be the best and most convenient to deal with the consequences of the floating of bread prices and fodder prices although it should be noted here that this plan will only reduce the deficit in the fiscal budget by one quarter of its original amount.

The private sector will be allowed to import these basic commodities and sell them freely but not beyond a ceiling to be fixed by the Ministry of supply while the livestock breeders will be allowed to export sheep.

I would like to reaffirm that this plan has been prepared in response to pressing needs and emanated from the government's deep sense of heavy responsibility towards the Kingdom and to the interests of the Jordanian people.

Jordan: Weekly on Bani-Sakhr Tribe's Protest Against Price Hikes

JN0808081596 Amman AL-AHALI in Arabic
8 Aug 96 p 5

[Report by Chief Editor Usamah al-Rantisi]

[FBIS Translated Text] On Thursday morning, 1 August, some cattle breeders in the township of al-Muwaqqar, in the central desert area, some 20 km east of Amman, headed toward the town's fodder distribution center. They were surprised to hear the center employees tell them that the price of fodder had increased considerably and that a tonne of fodder was being sold at 120 dinars, 45 dinars more than its previous price, in the wake of the government's recent plans to lift the subsidy on bread and fodder.

The cattle breeders were shocked when they heard this and protested against the increase, stressing that they are neither smugglers nor corrupt to be treated in this manner which makes life more difficult for them and for their children.

Four trucks loaded with fodder and coming from the Supply Ministry warehouses happened to be at the al-Muwaqqar fodder distribution center. Some of the cattle breeders thought to escalate their protest by forcibly seizing these trucks, which they proceeded to do. Eyewitnesses spoke about shooting between security

men at the center and the cattle breeders, but the cattle breeders managed to take control of the trucks.

When Shaykh Shayish al-Khurrayshah, chieftain of the Bani-Sakhr tribe, heard the news, he immediately went to the center and spoke to the protesters, who agreed to take the trucks to Shaykh Shayish's house until the issue of new fodder prices was settled.

When the official quarters learned about the incident, the commander of the Desert Force went to the shaykh's house, where a large number of cattle breeders were assembled. The commander asked the shaykh to return the trucks and hinted at using force and deploying 400 soldiers from the Desert Force. Shaykh Shayish told him: If you want to talk, we should not see any military manifestation or mention using force, the outcome of which I do not guarantee. As for the four trucks, they are safe with me. If you want to take them, I will not be responsible for anything that might happen when you leave my house. The Desert Force commander understood the message and left the place. Amman Governor Tal'at al-Nawayisah then arrived and heard the same from the shaykh.

Higher-level officials then heard about the incident and were quoted as saying: Leave the trucks with Shaykh Shayish and he will make sure they arrive at the warehouses. This happened the next day after hundreds of inhabitants of that area, as well as other areas, met and discussed all aspects of the subject. They announced their rejection of the prime minister's statements about smugglers among cattle breeders, stressing that all government agencies know who the smugglers are and who are the key figures that receive 10 dinars for every head of smuggled cattle.

A 70-person delegation was then formed under the chairmanship of Shaykh Shayish al-Khurrayshah. They met the speaker of the House of Representatives in the presence of ministers and deputies and conveyed their demands and their rejection of raising the prices of fodder and bread, because this decision will destroy their livelihood and force them to do what is necessary to maintain their dignity and provide food for their children. House Speaker Sa'd Hayil al-Surur promised to support their demands and convey them to the highest authority. He told them that the final decision will be made Wednesday morning.

Lawyer Salih Kunay'an al-Fayiz, official spokesman for the delegation, said that if the government insists on its decision to raise fodder prices that will lead to a popular explosion. He added: We will protest through all democratic means up to popular confrontations. He called for taking to account the corrupt ones who were responsible for Jordan's debts and said that citizens' livelihoods

should not be harmed. He added that citizens in the desert are suffering from poverty, hunger, and unemployment. He said that price hikes will aggravate the citizens' problems and eventually lead to an explosion.

Jordan: Bread-Subsidy Committee, Government Fail To Reach Accord

JN0808060896 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 7 Aug 96

[Announcer-read report; from the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A special Parliamentary committee has failed to reach a common ground with the government on its bread-subsidy policies. The committee was set up on Monday [5 Aug] after a two-day parliamentary debate on the issue.

Committee members met with Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti this evening, but they disagreed on figures of both the bread and the fodder subsidies. The committee has, over the past two days, conducted its own survey of the proposals of the MP's and concluded that the bread subsidy mechanism should be reexamined.

They proposed two solutions. One fixes the bread price at 130 fils per kilo, provided the government compensate beneficiaries of the National Aid Fund only. The other solution demands that the government fix the bread price at 150 fils per kilo and compensate all citizen holders of ration cards.

Concerning the fodder, the parliament committee said it considered that their prices were reasonable and meet requirements of the economic adjustment program.

Lebanon: Minister Says Elections May Be 'Postponed' for One Week

NC0708172596 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1530 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The cabinet met at the Republican Palace in B'abda today. Ministers Walid Junblatt and 'Ali al-Khalib were absent. President Ilyas al-Hirawi briefed the cabinet on the formation of the security committee [Israel-Lebanon Monitoring Group] emanating from the April Understanding. The committee will hold its first meeting in al-Naqurah tomorrow.

Information Minister Farid Makari, who read out the cabinet decisions, explained that Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri informed the ministers that it was agreed that the U.S. President would send an invitation to the donor nations participating in the programs for the reconstruction of Lebanon through the consulting group also mentioned in the April Understanding. The group will meet toward the end of September. Al-Hariri explained that no new fund will be set up for this purpose, but that funds will be channeled immediately to existing government institutions.

On Lebanon's representative on the security committee, Makari explained that Colonel Mahir Tufayli has been appointed to this post. He reiterated that Lebanon resolutely rejects any attempt to separate the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

In an answer to a question on the election law, Makari said the elections will be held but they may be postponed for one week in the event the Constitutional Council accepts the petition contesting the law.

Lebanon: Constitutional Council Reportedly 'Contests' Election Law

NC0808054296 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
0430 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] There will be active moves and contacts today in light of the Constitutional Council's ruling [on the constitutionality of the new election law], which will be announced at noon today. The Council of Ministers is expected to hold an extraordinary session to discuss the ruling and take the appropriate measures concerning the elections. President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri will today be officially informed of the final text of the Constitutional Council's ruling. The content of the ruling was conveyed to the three leaders by telephone last night.

It has been reported that the ruling contests three articles in the election law. These are: New Article No. 2 on the division of constituencies; Article 5, which fixes the term of the next Chamber of Deputies at four years and eight months; and new Article 30, which

bans employees who resign to stand for the elections from returning to their jobs if they fail in the elections. [passage omitted]

Lebanon: Amal Official in al-Biq'a' Assassinated

NC0808094296 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0923 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Our correspondent in al-Biq'a' has just told us that Hajj Ibrahim Abu-Hamdan, official in charge of the Amal Movement in Ablah, has been assassinated inside his office in his plastics factory. The circumstances of the killing are still unknown. Our correspondent says that the victim, 35, was hit by 30 bullets fired from a machine gun. The concerned agencies went to the scene and began investigations.

Lebanon: Two Killed, 10 Wounded in Election Dispute

NC0808082296 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
0800 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Disagreements over the posting of pictures of candidates at the Chamber of Deputies in the village of al-Muhammarah, in 'Akkar district, developed into an exchange of fire today. Two people were killed and 10 others were wounded.

Lebanon: Israeli Planes Raid Hizballah Radio in Ba'labakk

NC0808050396 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
0430 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli enemy planes raided a building of the Voice of the Oppressed [Hizballah radio] on the road to Nahlah town north of Ba'labakk at 0245 today. No one was hurt in the raid. At 0345, Israeli warplanes staged extensive raids over Ba'labakk, drawing antiaircraft fire. Israel admitted it carried out the aggression.

[In a related report at 0430 GMT on 8 August, Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic adds: "A huge fire, said to be caused by the explosion of a fuel reservoir, broke out after the raids. It is not known if the raids caused any casualties; correspondents were banned from entering the area."

[The report adds: "The raids were preceded by a resistance operation against Lahd forces [South Lebanese Army] in al-Burj in the Jazzin area. The Lahd forces reacted by shelling the region. The Lebanese police announced that an exchange of artillery fire took place last night between Hizballah and Lahd forces. The police said the Lahd forces shelled civilian targets, but there were no reports of casualties. However, our correspondent reported that two people were wounded in the shelling."]

Syria: Al-Asad-Mubarak Talks Seen as Part of Arab Peace Effort

JN0708151596 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Aug 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Syria's Arab position is based on a belief in a common Arab destiny. Syria views Arab solidarity as a basis of Arab strength. It will spare no effort to achieve a unified Arab position to face the current challenges, represented by Zionist schemes aimed at expansion, occupation, and hegemony, at the expense of Arab land and interests.

Stemming from this national and pan-Arab understanding, Syria has made extensive efforts to make the expanded Cairo summit a success. Syria is pursuing its efforts in the same direction to bolster the Arab position that was formulated by the summit.

Today's summit between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Hosni Mubarak is part of these efforts. This also applies to all the meetings to which Syria was a major party. President Hafiz al-Asad thinks that the unity and strength of the Arab position is the only deterrent to the Zionist plan and to Israel's policy, which rejects real peace. Israel bases its policy and schemes on the weakness of the Arab position and its ability to penetrate it. Therefore, the only response to Israel is to pursue Arab coordination, close ranks, and unify efforts and capabilities to enhance the Arab position.

At the Cairo summit, Syria, along with other Arab states, asserted that peace must be just and comprehensive. This Arab position enjoyed the support of the international community, including influential nations, led by the United States. U.S. President Bill Clinton said here in Damascus that peace must be just and comprehensive, and peace will not be comprehensive if it is not just. Therefore, justice is a prerequisite of comprehensiveness. This means adherence to international legitimacy and its resolutions and the land-for-peace principle. These principles are indivisible and cannot be dealt with by depending on several criteria. Anyone who does otherwise is against peace and is working to undermine the peace process and drag the region into a maze of grudges, tension, and violence.

Based on the above, Israeli talk about peace is nothing more than an obvious maneuver that has clear objectives. The Israeli maneuver ignores the principles and terms of reference of the peace process. This maneuver does not seek to enhance regional security and stability. It wants to twist the logic of peace and security to provide a cover for its objectives and ambitions in expansion and hegemony.

The failure of the Israeli plan depends on the unity of the Arab position, which will not enable Israel to change the concept of peace or penetrate the region. This Israeli inability will increase as Arab coordination increases and the Arabs adhere more firmly to the decisions of the Cairo summit. This is what Syria is doing and seeking. Solidarity and common positions are the only way to win international support and force Israel to accept a just and comprehensive peace.

Syria: AL-THAWRAH Highlights al-Asad-al-Hirawi Summit, Peace Stand

JN0708075096 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 7 Aug 96

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary on the issue of comprehensive peace, AL-THAWRAH newspaper points to the Syrian-Lebanese summit between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ilyas al-Hirawi who reiterated the Syrian and Lebanese commitment to a just and comprehensive peace as a strategic option.

The paper says: Syria and Lebanon reiterated the importance of cooperation and continuation of full coordination between the two fraternal countries, as well as unity of action to achieve peace based on the land-for-peace principle.

AL-THAWRAH adds: This is a clear response to the Netanyahu government's boobytrapped so-called Lebanon first proposal. The unity of the Syrian-Lebanese fate has been entrenched through historical facts which proved the credibility of Syria's pan-Arab stands toward helping and assisting the Lebanese brothers until they managed to end the Israeli sedition which was aimed at undermining Lebanon's unity, obliterating its Arab identity, and isolating it from its geographical environment.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: The objectives of the new Israeli bombshell are exposed and its dimensions are clear. It is a cover for Israeli extremism and rejection of the bases of a just and comprehensive peace. This proposal includes poisonous ideas, and Syria and Lebanon will not be deceived by it, because they are sufficiently politically mature regarding their firm fraternal relations. They will not fall into the trap of separate solutions which Israel uses on other tracks in order to make gains without meeting the requirements of peace.

**Syria: Press Views al-Asad-Mubarak Summit,
Netanyahu Peace Stand***JN0808063996 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 0505 GMT 8 Aug 96***[Press review]**

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "The Alexandria Summit," TISHRIN stresses that President Hafiz al-Asad stated very clearly Syria's position which aims to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. By doing so, the president dotted the i's and explained that peace cannot be achieved through arguments and pretexts that seek to circumvent the basic requirements and foundations of the peace process, or that seek to undermine that process. Peace cannot be achieved in a vacuum. All its elements and requirements were brought about by extensive political efforts that produced documents, commitments, and assurances. These efforts also led to convening the Madrid Conference in 1991 as the only terms of reference for peace in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the land-for-peace principle.

TISHRIN adds: By claiming that it is eager to resume the negotiations without any preconditions, Israel is saying that it does not want to implement the UN Security Council resolutions, does not want to withdraw from the occupied territories, does not want the Madrid formula to be the terms of reference for the peace process, and does not want the land-for-peace formula.

TISHRIN says: In order to achieve its denounced and rejected objectives, Israel seeks to marginalize the principles of a just and comprehensive peace and to undermine them for the benefit of arguments and positions such as peace-for-peace, security-for-peace, keeping the Golan Heights under security and vital pretexts, expand settlements, build new settlements, and bring in Jewish immigrants to settle them in the occupied Arab territories.

TISHRIN stresses that all the positions and arguments advocated by Netanyahu's government cannot in any way make a just and comprehensive peace. TISHRIN warns that such positions endanger the peace process.

Under the headline "Arab Cohesion," AL-THAWRAH says in a commentary that the Alexandria summit between President Hafiz al-Asad and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is particularly important at this stage, both on the level of bilateral ties and on the level of buttressing the Arab position.

The paper says: The Alexandria summit comes at the time when the peace process is facing a state of dormancy and inactivity, and is even dying slowly. Netanyahu's government announced its famous no's and

started extensive campaigns to build settlements in, and Judaize the occupied Arab territories. It also rejected publicly the resolutions and laws of international legitimacy.

The paper adds: According to the Israeli newspaper THE JERUSALEM POST, the arrogance of Netanyahu's government reached the point of informing the U.S. Administration that it is free of any commitment regarding withdrawal from the Golan Heights. This confirms that the Arabs are facing a treacherous, ruthless enemy who denies their rights and does not want to recognize their demands.

AL-THAWRAH says: The positions advocated by the Israeli Government make it imperative that the Arabs show more vigilance and awareness. They also need to strengthen their pan-Arab coordination, advance their joint cooperation, and build a cohesive Arab front that can contain and foil the Israeli arguments.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: The Alexandria summit will have a great role in fortifying the Arab position. It will also help lay the strong foundations for a genuine solidarity that will restore to the nation its cohesion; a cohesion that will make the Arabs a fearful, strong, and capable force that can defend the nation's rights and cultural and human existence.

**Syria: Palestinians Told To Close Faction Offices,
Halt Attacks on Jordan***TA0708154696 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
6 Aug 96 p 7***["Exclusive" AL-QUDS report]**

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, INTERMEDIA — Sources in the Palestinian opposition have disclosed that during the past few days, the Syrian authorities closed down several offices belonging to Palestinian opposition and fundamentalist factions headquartered in Damascus.

The sources, who preferred to remain anonymous, said that the "al-Dabitah al-Fida'iyah," a branch of the Syrian intelligence service which specializes in following up the security files of Palestinian factions, closed down security, military, and other offices responsible for tax collection and trade union activities in al-Yarmuk, the largest Palestinian refugee camp in Syria, and other Palestinian camps.

The sources added that some of the offices that were closed belong to the 10 factions, including the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command led by Ahmad Jibril; Fatah the Intifadah, which split from Fatah, the largest Palestinian faction; and the Palestinian Revolutionary Communist Party led by 'Arabi 'Awwad.

The "al-Dabitah al-Fida'iyah" recently summoned some of the leaders of the opposition factions and ordered them to stop any activity against Jordan or any attempt to infiltrate into Jordan in order to carry out operations against neighboring Arab or Israeli targets. Moreover, the Syrian security organs detained some Palestinian fundamentalists and Afghan Arabs on the basis of information given by Jordanian monarch King Husayn to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad relating to "terrorist" activities launched from Syria against Jordan.

The decision to close down the offices is considered an additional step by Damascus toward enhancing the climate of confidence and rapprochement prevailing in Jordanian-Syrian relations, especially following the Husayn-al-Asad summit in Damascus on 3 August.

Syria: Government's Coordination Efforts With Lebanon Praised

JN0608155596 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 6 Aug 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Within the context of the constant consultations between Syria and Lebanon, Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ilyas al-Hirawi held a round of talks yesterday in Damascus. They discussed all topical issues, particularly developments in the Arab situation, ways to enhance joint Arab action, and the negative impact of the Israeli policy on the peace process in the region.

Presidents al-Asad and al-Hirawi agreed to strengthen Syrian-Lebanese cooperation and to continue their united action for the sake of a just and comprehensive peace, based on the resolutions of international legitimacy 242, 338, and 425, and the land-for-peace principle.

It is clear that the talks between Presidents al-Asad and al-Hirawi and the coordination between the two countries constitute a decisive answer to the arguments of the extremist right-wing Israeli Government, led by Binyamin Netanyahu. Since the Arab summit in Cairo and the Arab leaders' agreement to confront the Israeli challenges that reject the principles of a just peace and that seek to establish Israel's occupation of Arab territories and build settlements on them, Netanyahu's government has been focusing on isolating Syria, restraining its pan-Arab role in the region, and imposing what Netanyahu describes as steps to complete the implementation of the Zionist project.

The first thing Netanyahu did was to try to persuade the U.S. Administration to abandon the Syrian and Lebanese peace tracks and yield to the Zionist lobby's

pressure to impose an economic blockade against Syria. The Israeli plan failed when the United States, through President Clinton and other officials, confirmed its commitment to the principles of the peace process, particularly the principle of exchanging land for peace, and when it emphasized the importance of Syria's participation in the peace process and Syria's basic role in establishing a just, lasting, and comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis.

Netanyahu also sought to circumvent the resolutions of the Cairo summit, which produced a unified position and confirmed the constants of the peace process. He received an answer from President Mubarak and other Arab leaders: that the Arabs are in full solidarity with Syria and Lebanon and that Israel's noncompliance with the principles of peace and the resolutions of international legitimacy exposes the region to very serious threats.

Netanyahu tried to drive a wedge between Syria and Lebanon by proposing his suspect Lebanon-First plan. He received the answer from the Lebanese Government itself when it stressed the need to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425 without any conditions. Lebanon — on both the official and popular levels, and through President Ilyas al-Hirawi and its various political, party, and spiritual leaders — confirmed its absolute rejection of Israel's scheme. It emphasized full cooperation with Syria and the Arab brothers.

The visit by President al-Hirawi to Damascus and his talks with President al-Asad constitute a practical confirmation of Lebanon's honorable position and its support for Syria, which has shared everything with it and which was the main supporter during its bloody dilemma.

In light of the growing Arab solidarity and the comprehensive adherence to the Cairo summit resolutions, and as a result of the fact that Israel's repeated attempts to divide Arab ranks have now been exposed, Netanyahu revealed his true schemes. These schemes are hostile to peace, both in form and substance. He has promoted settlement activity in the occupied Arab territories and has instructed settlers to expand their settlements and build new ones to impose a status quo — that is, occupation and Judaization. In the light of these circumstances, no one, neither in the Arab region nor in the world, should take Israel's peace claims seriously. Some prominent Israeli figures have even begun to make their voices heard and have denounced Netanyahu's policy and plans to torpedo the regional peace process. The Arabs must confront the serious Israeli threat. They have all the requirements for effective, successful confrontation. This is what Syria is trying to achieve through its persistent

efforts to harden the Arab position, buttress joint Arab action, and encourage the world community to rescue the peace process.

Syria: U.S. Reaction To Israeli Settlement Policy Viewed

JN0708195096 Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English
6 Aug 96 p 5

[Editorial by Fuad Mardud: "The wrong decision"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Peace lovers favour suspending settlement-building on the occupied Arab territories as a path to genuine peace in the Middle East. A majority of Israelis and American Jews feel the same way.

Binyamin Netanyahu and Ariel Sharon are leading Israel away from the peace arena and towards a rift with its main ally the United States. The decision taken by Netanyahu's government this week to resume settlement in the occupied Arab lands will have deadly consequences upon the already stalled peace process and on Israel's relations with all other nations as well.

The Israeli government is playing in the American lost time — that is the time of campaigning for the next November's presidential and general elections in the U.S. Yitzhaq Shamir and Ariel Sharon played this game in 1992 with the then President George Bush. They both failed.

What is happening now is more dangerous. The peace process in the region has reached certain and definite points, and every shaking to its roots will make it all crumble and fall into pieces.

The problem the Americans face now with the Netanyahu-Sharon group is that most of its members

believe that if "You are not with us, you are against Israel." What is worse is that their campaign to vilify those who disagree with them depends upon the old-new already-made accusation of anti-semitism to all those who oppose their plans to expand settlements and to halt the peace process.

Also, being a pro-Arab is a new accusation used by the Likud camp in the U.S. to terrify and intimidate prominent Americans, though many Americans believe that additional settlements are not needed for Israeli security, and find them more of a burden than anything else.

Every administration in the U.S. since Israel occupied the West Bank and the Golan Heights in 1967, has made equally clear its opposition to this policy, based upon U.N. resolutions accepted by all, including Israel, and later based upon Israel's commitments that led to the convening of the Madrid Middle East peace conference in 1991. The difference now is that the Clinton administration is in its weak time because of the elections.

Israel has regularly and effectively used American allies, mainly Jews, to interfere in American politics, including going after and defeating politicians who have opposed its plans and way of thinking. This administration, aware of this doing, is playing down the tune. But it has in mind that the policy of expanding Jewish settlements endangers the American-sponsored peace process as well as the American-Israeli relations.

That is why Washington favours seeing the settlement activity suspended.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan: President—U.S. Support for Taleban Prolongs Fighting

LD0708135096 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani has appreciated the humanitarian efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran in resolving the issue of Afghanistan.

Speaking in a conversation with the representative dispatched by the IRIB's [Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting] external service to Kabul, Rabbani said: The Islamic Republic of Iran's deputy foreign minister, Mr. Ala'eddin Borujerdi, has played a significant role in his visit to different parts of Afghanistan, negotiating with the leaders of the jihadi groups.

Elsewhere in his speech, Mr. Rabbani pointed to U.S. interventions in the region, saying: Supporting the opposition groups, especially Taleban, and providing them with financial and arms assistance, the United States helps the continuation of fighting and bloodshed in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan: President Rabbani Answers Questions From Journalists

LD0708201196 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] This afternoon esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA] received a number of foreign journalists for a news conference.

The presidential press office reported to BAKHTAR that the country's president received the journalists and answered their questions. In reply to a question raised by one of the journalists said: We work for the restoration of peace and a cessation of the fighting. We have been asking the opposition groups to end the fighting and to accept the process of talks and understanding. For this purpose we sent delegations to the north and to the centers of other opposition groups. As a result, the Hezb-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan [Islamic Party] expressed its actual cooperation in order to consolidate peace in the country. A new cabinet was formed and the ground was prepared better than at any other time for the cooperation of all parties and forces.

In reply to another question the ISA president said: We welcome the efforts by the UN special envoy. As we can see, Mr. Holl at the start of his mission has taken some [word indistinct] steps to define the causes of the continuation of fighting in Afghanistan. For example, he regarded the bombardment of Kabul City by the Taleban

group as an insult to the UN mission. In order to get better results from the UN efforts, it is better for him to choose the city of Kabul as the main base for his work. He should also expose the main cause of the present situation which is foreign interference and should take measures to stop it.

In reply to another question concerning the role and responsibilities of women in the society, Rabbani said: The Islamic State's objective is to [word indistinct] and to secure the tranquillity of all people in the society including men and women. They should all enjoy privileges such as learning science and knowledge, safeguarding their prestige and honor, and enjoying the conditions of work and an honorable life. Within their intellectual and spiritual abilities, the country's men and women should take part in the reconstruction work of their society as well as in the economic and social growth of their homeland within the framework of possibilities available to them.

Afghanistan: Text of Agreement Between Hezb-e Eslami, Jam'iyat-e Eslami

LD0808105396 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Dari 0730 GMT 7 Aug 96 to Afghanistan

[Announcer-read "text" of the agreement between Hezb-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan and Jam'iyat-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan signed in Mahipar; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful. Taking into account the interests of cherished Islam, and being aware of the current critical situation in the country, and to prevent the conspiracies that threaten our [break in reception] and national unity, competent representatives of Jam'iyat-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan [Islamic Society of Afghanistan] and Hezb-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan [Islamic Party of Afghanistan] reached an agreement on the following points on 13 Hout 1374 [4 March 1996], which will be implemented and formally announced after being signed by the leaders of the two parties:

1. Jam'iyat-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan will hold the following offices:

- a. The presidency
- b. The ministry of foreign affairs
- c. The ministry of internal affairs
- d. Chief of general staff

2. Hezb-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan will hold the following offices:

- a. The office of prime minister
- b. The ministry of defense

- c. The ministry of finance
- d. First deputy minister of foreign affairs
- e. Deputy minister of internal affairs

3. [words indistinct]

4. The tenure of the new interim government shall be six months to one year. General elections will be held during this period under the supervision of the interim government. It is the duty of the state and the government [as heard] to hold elections during their tenure through the appointment of an elections commission, comprising the representative of the signatories of the agreements and personalities who enjoy their trust.

5. If, for some reason, the interim government cannot hold general elections, a completely new administration will be formed with the agreement of the two sides and power will be transferred to the new set-up.

6. The administration of every province shall be taken up by the party that can work more and is in a majority there. Other parties shall help the party in control of the province.

7. The Islamic army and the police shall be formed from the security forces of the two sides. Security in Kabul and other cities as well as the highways shall be ensured by the joint security forces of the two sides.

8. During the tenure of the interim government, the Islamic Shura, the embodiment of a parliament, shall be formed. The convening and regulations of the Shura shall be drafted by an independent commission comprising representatives of the two parties.

Appendix to Jam'iyat-e Eslami-Hezb-e Eslami agreement:

1. The interim government is bound to base its policy on the Islamic Shari'ah and on the high interests of Afghanistan. Friendly relations with all countries, especially the Islamic countries, emphasis on good-neighborly relations with all neighboring countries, especially the fraternal countries of Pakistan and Iran, and respect for each other's territorial integrity shall be the main pillars of the future government's foreign policy.

2. It has been agreed that the National Security Department's military forces shall be dissolved and that the department shall work as a smaller intelligence agency with the responsibility of gathering information.

3. It is the responsibility of each side [words indistinct] to persuade its allies. The two sides shall try to persuade their allies.

4. [words indistinct] of Nangarhar Jihadi Council and Jam'iyat-e D'awat-o-Sunnah shall be taken into account with the agreement of both sides.

5. The two sides will try to resolve the current differences between the two factions of Hezb-e Wahdat very soon, and Hezb-e Wahdat will control over two ministries in the coming regime.

Afghanistan: Freedom Radio Says Pakistan Wants Improved Relations

LD0708193796 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto 0730 GMT 7 Aug 96 to Afghanistan

[FBIS Translated Text] The powerful Pakistani Government Afghan Cell [as heard — Committee] has insisted on an improvement in relations with Kabul.

A reliable source told a Radio Message of Freedom correspondent that the government of Pakistan had decided to invite Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, a member of Afghanistan's Higher State Council, to visit Islamabad. The source added that this issue would be discussed on 10 August, when an Afghan delegation headed by Interior Minister Mohammad Yunus Qanuni would be visiting Islamabad, and that a formal letter of invitation to Ahmad Shah Mas'ud might be given to the delegation.

The source said: The Pakistani Government Afghan Cell recently held a meeting during which emphasis was laid on the need for an improvement in relations with Kabul. The cell resolved that it would be good to discuss important issues with the Kabul delegation during its visit.

India

India: Austrian Finance Minister Favors 'Closer Cooperation' With India

AU0608143596 Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG in German 6 Aug 96 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Closer Cooperation With India"]

[FBIS Translated Text] New Delhi — [Austrian] Finance Minister Viktor Klima spoke in favor of closer cooperation with India, the largest democracy in the world, during a meeting with Indian Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral, which was also attended by Health Minister Christa Krammer.

In his toast, Klima stressed the importance of a strongly and steadily growing economy in India as the guarantor of stability in the region.

India wants to create better framework conditions for the country's further industrialization and provide state guarantees, which have become very scarce, for certain infrastructure projects, particularly in the energy sector, Indian Finance Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram said during his talks with Klima.

Klima explained the EU's policy and Austria's intention to open itself up to a greater extent toward India and the entire continent and stressed the long-term interests of the Austrian companies that are active in the country. According to Klima, a total of 54 joint ventures have been established between Austria and India. All together, some 280 Austrian companies are represented in India.

On Tuesday [6 August], Klima and Krammer will be paying a courtesy visit to Indian State President Shankar Dayal Sharma and Prime Minister Dewe Gowda. Moreover, Klima will be holding talks with the ministers for energy, industry, and trade, while Krammer will be meeting with the minister for health, environment, and forestry.

India: Austrian Minister Holds Talks With President, Ends Visit

AU0708134996 Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG
in German 7 Aug 96 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Klima Visits President Sharma"]

[FBIS Translated Text] New Delhi — Apart from the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, Finance Minister Viktor Klima discussed the WTO as well as the political development in Europe and the expansion of the EU with India's State President Shankar Dayal Sharma during a meeting yesterday.

The meeting, which was originally limited to 15 minutes, finally lasted for over an hour, Klima told Austrian journalists at a news conference in New Delhi. Klima said that, during his talks with the president, he stressed Austria's great interest in the further improvement of political, cultural, and economic relations.

In this connection, the finance minister denied reports by Indian media that he offered Austrian know-how for India's ambitious nuclear power plant program to Energy Minister S. Venugopalachari. He only offered expert knowledge and technology from Austria in connection with the thermal generation of electricity and hydro-electric power at a meeting of the Indian industrialists' association, Klima pointed out. At the same time, the finance minister stressed once more his antinuclear attitude regarding the use of military and civilian nuclear energy.

Within the framework of its next five-year plan, which begins in 1997, India wants to increase the capacity of the power plants for the generation of electricity from 81,200 megawatt last year by another 32,000 megawatt by the year 2002.

Klima also announced that the Indian state president will visit Austria in the second week of October. The visit has not been officially confirmed yet. Klima and Health Minister Christa Krammer will conclude their three-day working visit to India with a stay in Bombay.

India: Austrian Minister Holds Talks on Economic Cooperation

BK0608164296 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1530 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Austria are to expand bilateral trade and economic cooperation in a big way. The two sides have identified a number of fields for investment and joint ventures including engineering, power, transport, and medical sectors. The entire gamut of bilateral economic cooperation came up for discussion during talks between the visiting Austrian federal finance minister, Mr. Viktor Klima, and the finance minister, Mr. P. Chidambaram, in New Delhi today.

Mr. Klima also called on the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma. Later addressing a press conference, Mr. Viktor Klima said there are about 50 projects for Austrian investment in India under consideration costing about \$600 million.

India: Accord With Austria for Cooperation in Environment Sector

BK0608094496 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0830 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Austria have agreed to step up bilateral cooperation in environmental development. The two sides will set up a joint working group to consider various steps to promote cooperation. This was decided at a meeting between the minister of state for environment and forests, Captain Jainarain Prasad Nishad, and the visiting Austrian federal minister for finance, Mr. Viktor Klima, in New Delhi today. During the talks, Captain Nishad sought Austria's cooperation and technical know how in controlling air pollution in cities.

India: Kashmir Governor Meets Senator, Says Pakistan 'Behind Militancy'

BK0708040696 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GST 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Jammu and Kashmir governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, has reiterated the government's resolve to restore democracy and rule of law in the state despite Pakistan's machinations. The governor said this while talking to the U.S. senator, Mr. Hank Brown, who called on him at Raj Bhavan yesterday. Gen. Rao said that Pakistan was behind the militancy in Kashmir and has been responsible for the suffering of the people.

The poll schedule for the Jammu and Kashmir state assembly elections will be announced today. The four-phase polling for 87 seats in the state will be held next month. According to Election Commission sources, the state has been divided into four regions of Jammu, Srinagar, Ladakh, and Doda for smooth conduct of elections. Each phase of polling will be notified separately. The election commissioner, Mr. G.V.G. Krishnamurthy, told our correspondent that the commission is constantly monitoring the law and order situation and has instructed the state administration to take all preventive measures to ensure free and peaceful conduct of polling.

India: MP Urges Halt to Visits to Kashmir by U.S. Envoys

BK0708123596 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 7 Aug 96 p 7

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rajya Sabha member and former Union minister S S Ahluwalia has called upon the United Front Government to put an immediate halt to the visits of the US diplomats to Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement issued here today, the Congress MP expressed grave concern at the US interference in Jammu and Kashmir affairs: "Secessionist movements in the State are being financed and monitored by Pakistan."

"The entire world knows that the US has a soft corner for our neighbour. How can we allow interference from such powers on the affairs of our land, particularly when normalcy is being restored in Kashmir?" he observed.

Terming the US Ambassador Frank Wisner's visit to the Valley as "imperialistic and diplomatic arm twisting", Ahluwalia called upon the United Front Government to put an immediate stop to such visits.

"The Prime Minister should not kneel before American arrogance and categorically tell the Clinton administra-

tion that it should not overreach itself and dictate terms on Kashmir," he observed.

India: Minister's Refusal To Meet Senator Hank Brown Noted

BK0708124396 Madras THE HINDU in English 7 Aug 96 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The External Affairs Minister, Mr. I. K. Gujral; saw no point in meeting Mr. Hank Brown, the Republican Senator from the U.S., now here on a brief visit. Mr. Brown was to call on the Minister today, after his return from a quick trip to Jammu and Kashmir, but it did not materialise.

This was seen here as an isolated case — of its type — that could not be interpreted as marking even a slight setback to Indo-U.S. relations, now governed by stable dynamics.

The Republican Senator's name was familiar in India as the author of the Brown Amendment, which facilitated the supply of U.S. military equipment to Pakistan as a one-time exception of the embargo, applicable to Islamabad because of its nuclear weapons programme. What weighed with Mr. Gujral, it is learnt, was not this background, but Mr. Brown's article in an American journal on the eve of his departure for India. When the contents of the article became known here, Mr. Gujral felt it was pointless seeing the Senator. It was suggested that he, instead, meet the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Salman Haider. Mr. Brown is due to leave for Pakistan tomorrow.

In the article in Roll Call, Mr. Brown urged the U.S. administration to extend to India the penalties under the proliferation law, now applicable to Pakistan, because India was "involved in an arms race" in the region. The Brown Amendment did not repeal the current prohibition on U.S. military assistance to Pakistan, Mr. Brown said, adding: "the most disturbing issue is the double standard currently in effect in our foreign policy that tends to penalise Pakistan but not India, though both are involved in an armed race".

The article blamed India for the nuclear arms race in South Asia, touched off by the explosion of a nuclear device in 1974. India, according to him, was on the threshold of deploying a short range nuclear-capable device, Prithvi, that could directly threaten Pakistan. Quoting U.S. defence experts he said deployment of Prithvi by India could threaten every city in Pakistan.

In his view the U.S. law increased, rather than decreased the impetus for a nuclear arms race in South Asia. The American export control laws exempted India that developed nuclear programmes without outside

assistance but Pakistan's efforts to meet the Indian threat by importing nuclear technologies ran foul of U.S. restrictions, he said.

India: CPI Sees Wisner, Brown Visit to J&K as 'Interference'

BK0708125996 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA
in English 7 Aug 96 p 6

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The CPI [Communist Party of India] national council, currently in session, has raised the question as to who is responsible for allowing the US ambassador Frank Wisner to visit the "trouble-torn Valley of Jammu and Kashmir [J&K] along with anti-India senator Hank Brown."

In its resolution passed on the first day of the three-day national council meeting the CPI said that the meeting took serious view of Mr Wisner's and Mr Brown's visit to J&K and "their meetings with officials including the military officers posted there."

The CPI resolution said: "The US ambassador to India Mr Wisner, soon after his visit to Pakistan went to Srinagar and had meetings with separatists and terrorist leaders there. He also met top officials of the administration and military during his stay in Srinagar."

It further alleged that now the "chairman of the senate sub-committee on South Asia, Hank Brown, whose amendment facilitated the supply of \$368 million worth of arms to Pakistan also went there. He also had a meeting with the top officials dealing with law and order in the Valley at the Unified Command Headquarters."

The CPI national council alleged that such meetings with administration and security forces officials by the Americans, amounted to interference in the internal affairs of our country. "The CPI would want the people to know who permitted their talks with military officers," the resolution asserted.

The CPI further alleged that it was well known that "Americans had been trying to find a foothold and acquire some role in the affairs of our sub-continent, directly and indirectly suggesting mediation between India and Pakistan over Kashmir. Government of India had rightly rejected such moves so far."

PTI adds: Mr Hank Brown had a meeting with foreign secretary Salman Haider covering wide ranging issues, including Indo-US relations.

Mr Brown was told about India's stand on the Kashmir issue and its opposition to third party mediation for a Solution to the problem.

The American senator is also scheduled to visit Pakistan and Afghanistan before returning home.

The Times of India News Service adds from Srinagar: Mr Hank Brown on Tuesday [6 August] concluded his two-day visit to Kashmir during which he held talks with various leaders besides government officials.

Mr Brown had a breakfast meeting with leaders of the All-Party Hurriyat Conference (APHC) on Tuesday morning. Later, questioned by reporters whether Kashmir figured on the US agenda he said: "Frankly, it is a problem of free people everywhere and you know the US has been very concerned about freedom around the world."

A spokesman of the APHC said Mr Brown discussed with the APHC leaders the prospects of a dialogue between them and the government. The APHC leaders, the spokesman said, told him that a dialogue was possible when the government conceded that the Kashmir issue was a dispute. Once that happened they had to see who were the parties to be involved in the dialogue to make it meaningful.

The APHC leaders were reported to have told Mr Brown that they were not averse to the process of elections in the state. They said elections for the sake of forming a government had no relevance for the APHC.

India: BJP Takes Exception to Hank Brown's Visit to Kashmir

BK0708161696 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1530 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has welcomed the announcement of poll dates for Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections. The party spokesman, Mr. Yaswant Sinha, said the BJP will fight the elections alone.

The party has, however, taken exception to the visit of the US senator, Mr. Hank Brown, to the Kashmir valley. The convener of the party's foreign affairs cell, Mr. Brijesh Mishra, said such visits should not be allowed. He said it is all the more incomprehensible that Mr. Brown met the groups which were opposed to the forthcoming assembly elections in the state.

The Jammu and Kashmir Panthers Party has criticized the assembly polls schedule for the state. In a press release, the party president, Professor Bhim Singh, said the poll dates are not suitable because of heavy monsoon. He said the four phases were not called for as a number of people cannot vote as there was no summary revision of electoral rolls.

The home minister, Mr. Indrajit Gupta, will be visiting Jammu and Kashmir tomorrow. During his two-day tour, Mr. Gupta will assess the law and order situation in the state. The minister of state for home, Mr. Maqbul Dar, will accompany Mr. Gupta.

The former home minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, said he will decide on his future political line of action after consultation with his supporters before the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. Talking to newsmen in Jammu today, he said he had quit the Janata Dal because the party leadership did not consult him on various issues, including Kashmir.

India: Gowda Announces Special Grant for 3 Kashmir Districts

BK0708062296 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1530 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Following yesterday's visit to the Jammu and Kashmir districts of Leh, Kargil, and Jammu, the prime minister has announced a special grant and also the setting up of an agricultural university in Jammu. After a firsthand feel of the problems of the people of the high altitude districts of Ladakh and Kargil, the prime minister announced special assistance worth 16 crore rupees for various programs, including drinking water, infrastructure, and desert development in the two districts.

On his way back from Ladakh, the prime minister visited Jammu. Mr. Deve Gowda has issued instructions for the setting up of an agricultural university in Jammu. The university which will have technical and other support from the Central Government is to be set up in Jammu this year itself.

India: Farooq Abdullah Says Kashmir Accession 'Final'

BK0708054896 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] National Conference leader and former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Dr. Farooq Abdullah has said that the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to the Indian Union is final and no power can undo it.

In an interview broadcast from Radio Kashmir, Srinagar, yesterday evening, he said people of the state want return of normalcy as they have seen that Pakistan-inspired militancy in the last seven years has brought them nothing except misery and destruction. He urged the people to vote without fear in the coming assembly elections and remain vigilant against the designs of Pakistan to scuttle the political process. Dr. Abdullah said that he is in favor of an alliance with secular par-

ties in the coming elections but a final decision in this regard will be taken by the working committee of his party which is to meet soon in Srinagar.

A high-level team of the All India Congress Committee is visiting Jammu and Kashmir from today to chalk out a strategy for the forthcoming state assembly elections there. Mr. Madhav Singh Solanki, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, Syed Sibte Razi, and Major Ved Prakash will be the members of the team.

Iran

Iran: Khamene'i Notes Islam's 'Success' Despite U.S. 'Enmity'

LD0708124196 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah ['Ali] Khamene'i, at a meeting this morning with the foreign minister and his deputies and the Islamic Republic of Iran's diplomats abroad, described the enmity and the sensation created against the Islamic system by global arrogance, particularly the United States, as ineffective.

Giving a comprehensive and clear description of the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i stressed: As the essence of the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy, full attention must be paid constantly to the Islamic principles, courageous preservation of the desire for independence, and reliance on the revolutionary thoughts.

The esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution referred to the intensification of the sensationalization and propaganda waged by the United States and the Western press in recent days as the result of the daily escalating fear of global arrogance in the face of the growing power of Islam and the Islamic movement. He added: On the surface, the hegemonist order seeks various excuses to raise such a hue and cry, whereas the truth indicates that the U.S. Government's hostility to the Islamic system is some kind of enmity with a phenomenon, which is seriously threatening their hegemony over other nations, thanks to its relentless growth and expansion; and the steadfastness of this courageous nation is influencing other nations.

Referring to the continuous progress made by the Islamic system in its foreign diplomacy, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said: Diplomacy is a tool that is employed to realize the objectives of a nation, in accordance with the inherent qualities of that nation. The inherent qualities of the Islamic republic, which have created its growth and prosperity, are the Islamic and revolutionary morale and the Islamic ideology of

this nation and this government. It is precisely these qualities that have increased the power of this system and have won the respect and attention of other nations. These qualities are also the cause of America's and global arrogance's hostility against the Iranian Muslim nation and the Islamic system. [passage omitted]

Referring to the strong anger of the hegemonistic system in the face of the fact that other nations are following the example of the Iranian Muslim nation and the fact that the Islamic revolution is being exported naturally and without any efforts, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said: The enemy has realized that simply the existence of this Islamic government with such particular features as its strong presence in various international arenas, the growth of its material and manpower resources, the strengthening of the revolution's roots inside the country, the unprecedented stability of the Islamic system, and the depth of the people's support for the officials of the state have led to the proper spread of the Islamic revolution and rays of Islam in the world, without any particular efforts or propaganda. It is for this reason that global arrogance will not be satisfied with any alternative but termination of this system's real life or fundamental and deep transformation of its Islamic essence. This fact must be borne in mind all the time.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, reiterating that Islam has created problems for the great Western empire, said: Hegemonistic world powers, despite their differing views, share a feeling that the Islamic movement is growing and expanding gradually, and that this new movement is threatening the West's easy and smooth domination of the world. For this reason they feel their future in the world is threatened by a rival which is taking shape.

The esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution described the Islamic Republic of Iran's diplomats as the defenders of the lofty values of Islam in one of the most difficult [battle] trenches, and said: Initiatives are born at difficult times. It is on such occasions that mankind finds its inner resources and individuals demonstrate their genius. Tolerating hardship, perseverance, and giving sacrifices for the sake of justice will bring mercy from God, divine assistance, and future success.

Therefore, the Islamic Republic of Iran's diplomats abroad — that is to say, a group of officials who are constantly facing hurtful news and reports as well as allegations, accusations, threats, and denigrating remarks made by the lackeys of the global arrogance and Zionism — must endure these bitter experiences and consider them as divine blessings in disguise. It is in the midst of all the bitterness that they should try to attain God's special attention.

The eminent leader, furthermore, called on the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassadors and diplomatic representatives to respect and observe the values of Islam and its moral and spiritual foundations.

Referring to the effect of enjoying a constant bond with the Almighty, he said: Love and respect for God gives meaning to one's life, fills the vacuums in one's spiritual existence and spawns success in all aspects of life. Alienation from God and the spiritual domain is precisely the reason for the fact that in Western countries, such as America, nothing — not even money, science, and military power — is able to bring about well-being, salvation, and peace of mind.

At this meeting, before the remarks by the eminent leader of the Islamic revolution, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati spoke and explained the state of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and other countries, in particular in important parts of the world.

He said: Efforts by people involved in the formulation and implementation of our foreign policy show that one can stand firm against the global arrogance, and that, through extensive presence on the international arena, it is possible to nullify the ploys of the world hegemonistic powers.

Iran: Majles Speaker Says U.S. Sanctions Show 'Weakness'

*LD0708194896 Tehran IRNA in English
1314 GMT 7 Aug 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tabriz, East Azarbaijan Prov., Aug 7 (IRNA) — Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri said in Tabriz on Wednesday [7 August] the United States is the main backer of global terrorism and it backs the Zionist regime of Qods — the founder of terrorism in the world — in his address to thousands of people who had gathered at Takhti Stadium. The speaker said the recent decision of the U.S. President on tougher measures to isolate Iran originated from weakness and ignorance because such conspiracies have been doomed to failure. Hojat ol-Islam Nateq-Nuri said the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to cooperate with international forums to combat terrorism and would apply as the number one member if the United Nations formed a special commission to go on an antiterrorism campaign. The majles speaker arrived in Tabriz today on the first leg of his visit to the province and was accorded a warm welcome with revolutionary slogans in support for the leadership of the Islamic Republic.

**Iran: Velayati—World Taught America 'Lesson'
Over D'Amato Law**

*LD0808102996 Tehran IRIB Television First Program
Network in Persian 0930 GMT 8 Aug 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, in an exclusive interview with a correspondent of the Central News Unit, answered questions on the reasons for the recent U.S. measures against the Islamic Republic of Iran, international reaction to these measures, and the diplomatic and legal steps undertaken by Iran at the international level to counter America's illegal deeds. Mr. Velayati said:

[Begin recording] [Velayati] We believe the main reason for this irrational decision of the U.S. Government is election rivalry. This is particularly so as we approach the date of the U.S. presidential elections; the Americans' international decisions are more influenced by their internal politics. Despite the fact that all the U.S. allies in the international arena have opposed this decision of the United States, the U.S. President signed it [the D'Amato law]. As a result of this unwise action, all reliable states of the world showed a negative and angry response shortly after the announcement of the U.S. decision. This is strong evidence that the world is not ready to accept that the world's destiny is dominated by America's internal laws, and that the independence of other countries is threatened in this way. This was a lesson the world taught the Americans so that they should not imagine they were the unrivalled decision-makers in the international arena.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Velayati, there is another point involved here that concerns the Islamic Republic of Iran's diplomatic and legal reactions to America's moves against us. Has the Foreign Ministry taken any steps in this context and, if not, does it intend to do so in future?

[Velayati] We have prepared the preliminary grounds for our intended complaint to The Hague court, in particular our complaint against America's decision to allocate \$20 million to undermine and sabotage the Iranian state. In the next few days, we will submit our case to that court, and then we will assess carefully the Islamic Republic of Iran's legal fight against the unwise decisions adopted by America.

On the diplomatic front, too, we are still engaged in talks and consultations with our friends all over the world. You can now witness the outcome of this process of cooperation and consultation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and other countries, in particular the world's important states. These efforts can be considered as a major factor that brought failure to

America's efforts to impose a universal sanction against Iran. [end recording]

**Iran: Velayati Reacts To U.S. Hints at Involvement
in Explosions**

*JN0808125796 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1100 GMT 8 Aug 96*

[Passages within quotation marks are recording of Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's answers in Arabic]

[FBIS Translated Text] Iran filed a protest with the United Nations against what it described as a violation of its airspace by U.S. planes. This coincides with the deterioration in Iranian-U.S. relations as a result of U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry's implications of Iranian involvement in the al-Khubar explosion against the U.S. Forces and President Clinton's signing of a law tightening economic sanctions on the companies which deal with Iran and Libya.

Interviewed by Radio Monte Carlo, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati answered questions by colleague Muhammad Sadiq al-Husayni on the U.S. law, U.S. accusations against Iran, and Iranian-Arab relations.

Asked by Muhammad Sadiq al-Husayni on the statements accusing Iran of involvement in terrorist operations, Velayati said:

"The U.S. accusations are absolute lies. We rejected the Oran [Algeria] and the TWA plane explosions and what happened in Atlanta. We did not support any of them. The Americans are repeating their flimsy, baseless allegations. They seek to push internal problems outside American borders on the eve of the presidential elections. They seek to spread differences among the Islamic countries so that they can achieve their objectives in a better way."

Asked about the reactions to the U.S. decision to tighten sanctions on the companies which deal with Iran and Libya, Velayati said:

"We consider the reaction of Europe and the other independent states against the U.S. decision, which exceeded the limits, a sound positive step. Had countries remained silent, without making any reaction, the meaning and significance of political independence and national sovereignty would be lost. America believes that the laws which are passed by its parliament will be implemented throughout the world. In other words, America believes that it is the center of world government, something which is rejected by independent countries."

Regarding the Arab position and Iranian-Arab relations, Velayati said:

"We have always been ready to cooperate with the regional Arab states on the basis of mutual confidence. Reinforcing trust in collective cooperation among us will help achieve stability and security in the region. Our relations with Saudi Arabia have overcome the fluctuations which prevailed in the past. These relations could advance through mutual desire.

"As for Egypt, its stands, as well as its support for the Syrian and Lebanese stands in the conflict against Israel, are important to us. Egypt's attempt to come closer to the Syrian stands and the interests of the Arab and Islamic world, as well as its attempts to distance itself from Israel, could help in bringing Egypt closer to Iran. This will be in the interest of the Iranian and Egyptian people and the Middle East."

Iran: Velayati—Iran 'Not Worried' by U.S. Moves
MM0808130096 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
8 Aug 96 p 4

[Interview with Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati by Ghassan Bin-Jadu in Tehran; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Bin-Jadu] The U.S. Administration is openly accusing Iran of supporting terrorism. U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry based this on "anti-U.S. statements" by Iranian officials. Tension between the two countries has peaked lately. What are the dimensions of this escalation?

[Velayati] We and the whole world have grown accustomed to the lies spread by U.S. officials. That is why the statements by U.S. officials now lack credibility, even among the U.S. allies. A number of U.S. Administration officials have made irresponsible statements. We have reached a point where we feel it is futile to deny the false U.S. charges against Iran. At any rate, I want to emphasize that the claim linking Iran to the Dhahran explosion is unfounded and lacks any evidence. The statements they make from time to time are not based on any evidence or documents. They are known to have specific objectives behind their campaigns and they would knock on any door to achieve them but that has been futile. They tried at the Sharm al-Shaykh, Lyon, and Paris conferences (on combating terrorism) and in various other parts of the world to persuade their allies to put pressure on Iran. The position of these allies was clear. They frankly asked the U.S. Administration to produce evidence to support its claims against Iran, and they emphasized that Iran has an important and influential role to play in the region and that therefore they were not prepared to jeopardize their relations with Iran. It is clear that the U.S. Administration's failure to pro-

vide the evidence has prompted it to create the recent atmosphere of tension and escalation.

[Bin-Jadu] You have denied any link with the Dhahran explosion, but there is some talk of the existence of terrorist training camps inside Iran.

[Velayati] All these charges are false. I reaffirm that we neither approve of nor support the Dhahran explosion, the TWA explosion, the Atlanta explosion, or any other explosion in the world. We have condemned these kinds of terrorist operations in various ways, and we have denied any link with them. Sensible and logical people have actually been satisfied with what we have declared, and have deemed our expression of our positions on these incidents to be appropriate, but in the United States there are internal problems and the United States is resorting to the now familiar option of blaming others because of the failure to solve internal problems.

[Bin-Jadu] Do you expect a military attack on Iran, bearing in mind that U.S. forces recently carried out naval exercises in the Gulf?

[Velayati] Whatever the U.S. objectives — whether they are confined to creating a political and media clamor or extend to field actions — it would make no difference to us and would not much concern us. Our people have demonstrated and proved their steadfastness and resistance against foreigners. If what you mentioned (military attack) did take place, it would not be the first time the United States has taken such action. Any aggressor who allows himself or dares to commit aggression against us would be taught an unforgettable lesson by Iran. We do not covet any country or point outside our borders and we have no intention of attacking or committing aggression against any country but we are determined to defend our country. Whatever the identity of the aggressor, our people would make him regret his action.

[Bin-Jadu] British Defense Secretary Portillo has announced that London would support any attack by U.S. forces on "terrorist training bases" if a link is established between these camps and the Dhahran explosion.

[Velayati] He did not say good things. Our response to the United States will also be our response to any other party taking the same U.S. position. Actually, the British officials' repetition of the lies uttered by U.S. officials is not something to be proud of.

[Bin-Jadu] French forces have also been put on maximum alert in the Gulf. Do you believe France could get involved in a military campaign against Iran, and have there been any contacts with the French Government recently?

[Velayati] As far as we know, the French policy is different from the U.S. policy. Statements by French officials confirm this, which leads us to the conclusion that the French position is generally different from the U.S. line. And, of course, our contacts with the French Government are continuing without interruption.

[Bin-Jadu] A part of the recent U.S.-Iranian tension is basically related to what appeared to be a U.S. claim of a possible link between Iran and the Dhahran explosion. That takes us to the question of Saudi-Iranian relations. How do you assess these relations?

[Velayati] Relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia are based on good-neighborliness and actually there are continuing endeavors on both sides to develop bilateral relations. Some successes have, of course, been achieved in that respect but the pace of progress has not been up to the required level. We can today say that relations between the two countries have overcome past tension. At any rate, we are interested in enhancing and strengthening cooperation with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Arab and Islamic states.

[Bin-Jadu] Everyone in the Gulf region appears to be preoccupied with the issue of security. As you have spoken of enhancing cooperation, do you have any concept of the framework for such cooperation?

[Velayati] Article 8 of UN Security Council Resolution 598 on the cease-fire between Iran and Iraq clearly speaks of providing security in that region. We have, from the beginning, sought to implement that article and we still believe that cooperation between the region's states of the region should be based on elimination of the anxiety of all the countries in the region about one another and on building and strengthening bridges of mutual trust. Some states in the region might have some reservations about Iraq becoming a part of this group, that is the group for cooperation between the states of the region in the interest of security, but what is important is that we should agree on the principle of cooperation on the basis of consolidating mutual trust between the states of the region. For our part, we are prepared to step up efforts to enhance the elements of such trust and build and cement the required bridges of mutual cooperation. Of course, once the elements of such trust are created and once we have worked for that end, the required security will then automatically prevail. We could then hope that the states of this extremely sensitive region will live a normal life free from tension and, furthermore, live in an atmosphere full of trust and cooperation with no need for foreign military forces.

[Bin-Jadu] Do you expect certain Arab states to support any possible U.S. attack on Iran?

[Velayati] There can be no doubt that relations between Iran and the Arab world are not what the United States wants them to be. Iran wants to establish relations full of amity and friendship. We do not believe that the Arab world is on the side of those opposed to us. We see the Arab world as a part of the Islamic world and we believe in the need for cooperation between Islamic states, and we believe that the Islamic world should stand united in defense of its interests and in the face of the enemies of Islam. Our policy is not at all based on hostility toward the Arab states. It puts the emphasis on friendly relations between Iran and the Arab world. We believe that the experiment of the past years which followed the triumph of the Islamic revolution is a reason for the Arab states to feel certain that their interests are assured through friendship and not enmity with Iran.

[Bin-Jadu] You are constantly denying any link with terrorist operations. Are you willing to cooperate with the international community in combating terrorism?

[Velayati] We are victims of terrorism and would naturally cooperate in combating terrorism. We have for many years been stressing the need to combat terrorism impartially. No country has suffered as much damage as Iran as a result of terrorist operations, and it is not normal that those who engaged in terrorism should find shelter, security, and protection in the West. It is also illogical that Israel should be able to do what it likes undeterred. What label can we give to what Israel is doing in Lebanon? If it is not terrorism, what are we to call it? What is the international community's position on Israel's terrorist actions in Lebanon and Palestine, as the international community talks about the need for fighting terrorism?

[Bin-Jadu] In your message to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali you warned that any U.S. military attack on Iran would have serious consequences. What specifically do you mean?

[Velayati] Iran is a country with deep-rooted civilization, a country which for thousands of years stood firm in the face of any foreign aggression. What I can emphasize is that any party which at present contemplates aggression against Iran would regret it. Iran is no weaker than Vietnam, and the United States is no stronger than it was then. The Iranian people and their government will not hesitate to defend Iranian territory, as they proved in the (Iraq-Iran) war that was imposed on them.

[Bin-Jadu] Was your message to the UN secretary general just a matter of drawing attention to the matter, or do you expect something else?

[Velayati] It is the international organization's duty to prevent threats to international security. What the United

States is doing in the region poses a major threat to international security. The United Nations should play its role and do its duty in this connection.

[Bin-Jadu] President Bill Clinton has signed a law imposing sanctions on non-American companies which invest in the gas and oil sectors in Iran and Libya, but it seems that most states, including European states, are opposed to that law. Do you expect the U.S. Administration to back down or possibly take more escalatory measures?

[Velayati] We do not need the United States to develop our country, and we do not need any American investors in the fields of oil extraction, production, and marketing. It is a measure of the triumph of the revolution that the United States has not given us aid in any field. What is taking place is merely a political and electoral display by Mr. Clinton, and will have no effect on our interests. We run our oil industries without the United States. In fact, the U.S. economic embargo against us has been a source of good and blessing for Iran. Everyone today acknowledges that Iran has advanced in industrial, technological, and scientific fields. We are not worried about these illogical moves and the chaos that results from them. As regards international reactions, and especially Western reactions, we differentiate between the United States and the rest of the Western states, and we believe that the United States is now internationally isolated in a manner unprecedented since the Cold War. It stands alone in its hostile policy towards Iran. As regards what happens next, that is another matter, because some issues could be addressed but the U.S. Administration is unreasonable and illogical and is completely subject to Zionist influence. We, at any rate, are not worried about any American measure.

Iran: Commentary Views 'Wedge' in EU Ranks Over U.S. Bill

NC0708141896 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 27 Jul 96
p 12

[Commentary by A.A. Niamanesh: "London—Deal With Washington or Bow Down to European Nationalism"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the FINANCIAL TIMES newspaper, the London echelons have stated: Since some of the measures envisioned by the European Union [EU] against the United States, if the latter implements the Helms-Burton bill, violate [Britain's] national sovereignty, these will be opposed and their implementation blocked by veto.

The conflicting stance adopted by the British, in the face of the retaliatory stance by the EU, comes at a time when the European Commission [EC] has given London

the opportunity to study details of the proposal and announce its viewpoint. At the same time, the EU called on Japan to resist the United States and to strengthen bilateral ties with the EU, in order to combat the U.S.' strident posture.

The chief of the EC, Jacques Santer, criticized Japan's defensive role in the international community in an interview with the TOKYO newspaper. He called on Tokyo to strengthen its political role, in view of the common political stance between Japan and Europe.

In the light of the above, it appears that by asking Japan to join its front, Europe wants to set up a united front against U.S. arbitrariness. Furthermore, trade differences between Japan and the United States have created favorable conditions for Tokyo to join with Europe against U.S. attempts to unipolarize society.

However, the possibility of Britain using its veto power against the EU's plan to resist the United States can be viewed from two aspects: First, this British stance is yet again one of opposition to the EU. Ever since the EU's inception, Britain has always been known to be in the opposition and has mostly adopted unfavorable positions on most EU proposals, ever since it broke away from the mechanism of the single monetary unit for Europe.

From this aspect Britain, which considered itself the undisputed power of Europe and the world for a long time, cannot accept parity of its currency, and that its economic power should be subservient to that of other countries. London believes in preserving its distinctive national interests and a special position for itself in Europe, as it is an island in the midst of the European continental countries.

However, it appears that defense of Britain's national prestige is not enough reason for its opposition to the EU. This is because even though London considers the issue of Ireland an internal matter, it was compelled to accept U.S. intervention on its own turf. It is for this reason that the second aspect of this analysis of Britain's stance must transpire.

It appears that Washington's pressure regarding Northern Ireland was the reason for London's concurrence with the United States and can be viewed as political give and take. Accordingly, the scenario that emerges is that the veto will result in a mitigation of U.S. pressure with regard to the IRA in Northern Ireland. In return, London is prepared to drive a wedge in the ranks of its European allies and to undermine the EU stance against the United States.

In any case, London has chosen to reconcile with its [U.S.] cousin — which has endangered even its

own interests — over the national will and prestige of Europe, and the entire world.

Iran: Commentary—U.S. 'Responsible' for Terrorism in Iran

LD0708145696 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1150 GMT 7 Aug 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In his speech to the gathering of the Iranian foreign representatives on 6 August, Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati called the United States the founder and supporter of state and international terrorism in the world.

Generally speaking, expressions such as terrorism, human rights, and democracy have different meanings and definitions. This is because different countries define these according to their own aims and objectives. A clear example and point is the U.S. Government's definition of terrorism, which because it is an isolated, unreal, and self-made definition, actually helps to expand terrorism in the world.

The blatant support by the U.S. Government for terrorist organizations such as the monafeqin [hypocrites], an Iranian notorious terrorist group [Mojahedin-e Khlaq Organization, MKO], which has the most horrific record in carrying out terrorist acts in Iran, is the most obvious example of U.S. support for terrorism. Meanwhile, the roots and factors that give rise to terrorism are now appearing in the United States itself. The recent Olympic bomb explosion at the Centennial Park in Atlanta is yet another indication of the upsurge of terrorist activities in the United States. Nevertheless, U.S. Government officials are still trying naively to look for foreign factors behind terrorist acts conducted inside the United States.

It goes without saying that terrorism is an issue that the American political bosses are trying to use as a propaganda tool on the eve of the U.S. presidential elections. This is why the U.S. regime has chosen the easiest way to influence the American public opinion. Accusing foreign countries of carrying out terrorist acts in the United States, while maybe justifying to a relative extent the U.S. Government's incompetence in coping with its security problems, seems to be the right tool to exert pressure on independent states opposed to U.S. world domination.

The U.S. Government accuses Iran of supporting terrorism, while it well knows that the Iranian nation has been a victim of terrorism more than any other nation in the world. As Dr. Velayati stated, the U.S. regime has been responsible both directly and indirectly for such terror-

ist acts committed in Iran. Therefore, like the supreme leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Khamene'i, has said on numerous occasions before, the accusation of support for terrorism is deserving more of the United States than any other country in the world.

On the whole, as the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran have always said, Iran is opposed to terrorism in any way and shape and for any reason, and believes that with serious international cooperation primary proponents of terrorism can be recognized and punished. Undoubtedly, accusing independent countries under the pretext of fighting terrorism provides the right opportunity for the real terrorists, who escape punishment hiding in the murky waters of propaganda.

Iran: Commentary Views European Response to U.S. Sanctions

LD0708220596 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1150 GMT 7 Aug 96

[Unattributed commentary: "The European Union and the United States Facing Each Other"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Following the the signing of the law known as D'Amato by Bill Clinton, the European Union has threatened the United States with similar punishments. The Paris daily LE MONDE quoted the German foreign minister, Klaus Kinkel, in its Tuesday 6 August issue, as soon as a European company is punished by the D'Amato legislation Europe will hit back just the same. The paper also said that the United States has presented no document to support its claim that Iran and Libya support terrorism and this is why the European Union is so strongly opposed to that legislation.

Based on the D'Amato Law, non-American oil firms which invest more than 40 million dollars annually in the Iranian and Libyan oil industries cannot go on with their usual economic activities in the United States. The bill was signed by Clinton on Monday [5 August] this week. According to economic experts, while various nations, along with the World Trade Organization, are trying to expand economic and trade relations between the countries of the world and directing their efforts to reduce trade barriers to a minimum on the international level, the U.S. action to boycott those firms which do business with Iran and Libya is a flagrant violation of the WTO regulations. So, it is only natural that for the EU and other nations to reaction negatively to Washington's arrogant policies.

From the analysts point of view, the basic factor which makes the EU and the states such as Japan stand up to the U.S. decision of punishing companies which

are active in Iran and Libya is the economic interests of those countries. The EU and Japan are not willing to endanger their economic interests because of U.S. political intimidations against independent countries of the world. Furthermore, Iran's prominent role in economic relations in the Persian Gulf and Central Asian regions, reduces the U.S. leverage vis-a-vis its Western allies. There is also a great possibility that the implementation of the D'Amato law will adversely affect political relations between the EU and Japan with the United States.

Economic experts believe that the consensus on the failure of the U.S. imposed sanctions against Iran and the D'Amato act, signed by a frustrated Clinton, is even a more significant setback for the United States. Sources informed on Iranian issues believe that the punishment of nine U.S. firms doing business with Iran not only would not have any effect on the Iranian economy, but it would certainly advance Iran's plans of economic self-sufficiency and utilization of its potential domestic resources and capabilities.

Iran: Two Dailies Criticize U.S. 'Bullying Attempts'

LD0808120196 Tehran IRNA in English
0830 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 8, IRNA — Two English dailies Thursday [8 July] commented on the U.S. anti-Iran move saying the whole world has witnessed the U.S. bullying attempts against independent countries particularly Iran.

As to recent bomb blasts against the U.S. interests throughout the globe, KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL stated that the White House under Clinton has committed error after error by its illogical and irrational decisions, and the new U.S. sanctions are yet another extra-territorial blunder.

Referring to Washington's close relations with the Zionist regime, it said that for the first time, Arab leaders are rethinking over the need for American presence on their soil particularly when there is growing resentment among the local people against foreign troops in their region.

"Hounding Iran for terrorism on American soil or its interests Abroad, has become a matter of convenience and routine for Washington as it increasingly finds itself at a loss to answer Americans who want to know why they are being targeted at home and across the globe."

Commenting on objection of a number of European states to the U.S. anti-Iran moves, the editorial reiterated that the new sanctions will not have any concrete and

immediate effect on Iran's economy nor any impact on its foreign relations.

"In fact, the sanctions should be seen as a blessing in disguise as they have rallied more support for Tehran than ever before," it said concluding that the new U.S. law is also likely to spur Iran's friends in Europe to take up a more constructive dialog with Tehran.

Another daily TEHRAN TIMES on the same subject wrote, "most of Washington's absurd policies stem from the naivety of the incumbent of the White House, his advisors and the person in charge of the state department." This is why almost all U.S. bullying policies have so far boomeranged on itself.

Probably most of the American citizens are not aware of the fact that their leaders are true servants of powerful Jewish lobby, it said adding, the subservience of American politicians to the Jewish lobby has gone to the extent that the U.S. national interests have practically fallen prey to the appeasement of this lobby.

Although the public may not be in a position to realize the depth of the tragedy, the American intelligentsia will not definitely remain indifferent vis-a-vis this tragic situation for a long time, it underlined.

The strong reaction of U.S. allies to those dirty laws has proved that Washington is once again alone, it said concluding, it is time for the U.S. intelligentsia and the public to force the naive U.S. politicians to revise the sanction policy.

Iran: Storm Over Sanctions on Countries Trading With Iran, Libya

MS0808142396 London THE TIMES in English
8 Aug 96 p 12

[Report by Michael Binyon: "U.S. Anti-Terror Moves Enrage Friends and Foes"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Americas heavy-handed attempt to impose worldwide sanctions on countries trading with Iran and Libya ran into a storm of foreign criticism yesterday, uniting Washington's closest allies with radical opponents of America.

The D'Amato Act has succeeded in antagonising even governments normally keen to back Washington and committed to the international fight against terrorism, such as Britain, France, Germany and Japan. Their criticism has deeply embarrassed President Clinton and been used as evidence by Iran to insist that such sanctions will fail.

President Chirac threatened America yesterday with reprisals if French firms are penalised for trading with

Iran or Libya and he is trying to rally European opposition. Sir Leon Brittan, the European Union Trade Commissioner, described the legislation as unacceptable and said that it represented "a clear violation of the principle of extra-territoriality". He told the Italian newspaper LA STAMPA that the law was a threat to the European economic system.

The British Government has also voiced its concern and called for a concerted response by the law's opponents — although officials have been careful to moderate the language in which they have criticised the Clinton Administration. More radical foes of American policy have had no such qualms. China urged Washington to hold talks with Libya and Iran and said the law was not consistent with international norms.

Russia, which has little investment in Libya but is seeking to expand its trade with Iran, especially on nuclear co-operation, was equally outspoken. "We need co-ordinated practical measures to improve wide anti-terrorist co-operation based on international law, but not unilateral steps contradicting the law," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Libya's official news agency, Jamahiriya, said that the sanctions would backfire on the United States and called them an excessive "demonstration of hatred and selfishness". The Iranians were gloating at the confusion. Gholamreza Aghazadeh, the Oil Minister, said the law was doomed to failure. He said that if a precedent were established giving a state the right to approve legislation against other nations, there would be international chaos.

The vehemence of the opposition from America's leading allies cannot have been a surprise to Washington. Britain has consistently opposed any attempt by Washington to impose laws affecting British companies or American subsidiaries in Britain. John Major and other G7 leaders repeated their opposition to this at the Lyons summit in June and embassies in Washington have been busy lobbying Congress in an attempt to head off the D'Amato law.

Some of the toughest criticism has come from Asia. Japan, whose own trade relations with Washington have been marked by acrimony and threats of sanctions and trade wars, was unusually outspoken. Hiroshi Hashimoto, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, said it was lamentable that America should have imposed extra-territorial legislation. That could go against a World Trade Organisation agreement. He said Japan would continue to urge America to reconsider the law and would decide what action to take in the light of how it was applied.

In Australia, Tim Fischer, the Deputy Prime Minister and Trade Minister, said the country was opposed to any source of terrorism. But it believed the American law was wrong in principle.

Iran: Oil Minister—U.S. Law on Toughening Sanctions 'Doomed'

*LD0808122796 Tehran IRNA in English
0804 GMT 8 Aug 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 8, IRNA — Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i has said that the law on toughening of American sanctions on Iran was doomed even before it was announced.

He added that foreign investments and contracts will not be affected by this move and projects such as exploitation of the Sirri-a and Sirri-e by Total of France are progressing.

"We have received many more offers from foreign companies for implementation of other projects in Iranian oil industry and we are not concerned the least about the sanctions," the minister stressed.

Speaking to IRNA on Wednesday [7 August], he added that in the light of the resources and capabilities of Iran's oil industry the latest decision of Bill Clinton will have no impact on Iranian oil industry.

"Americans are well aware that the Iranian oil industry will face no difficulty and future will prove this," the minister added.

More on the Clinton move, he said that such laws damage the national prestige and identity of other countries and European countries in order to protect their identity will have to encounter the laws that U.S. has imposed against them.

Aqazadeh-Kho'i pointed out that on the basis of international laws the U.S. sanctions cannot be implemented and foreign companies will definitely take their cases to international authorities and consequently U.S. will be condemned.

He added that the world needs oil from Iran and other Persian Gulf countries to meet its energy needs and world economy depends on these oil supplies.

Oil Minister added that Iran with its vast gas and oil resources plays a key role in international economy and supply of world energy.

According to Aqazadeh-Kho'i, status of Iranian oil industry has never been as good as it is now. The Iranian oil industry in all aspects: production, sale and refining of oil and gas, has become self-reliant and it is in a stage that can export its services.

He further added that oil ministry is now engaged in many foreign contracts and is working along major international foreign companies in projects such as exploitation of Shakh Deniz [name as received] oil field, projects in Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, building of joint refinery in Pakistan, exploration operations in Senegal and Libya.

"This demonstrates that the Iranian oil industry has assumed its position in the world oil industry in terms of technical know-how, capability, expertise and experiences" he told IRNA.

Aqazadeh-Kho'i made it clear that Iran enjoys the needed technical know-how to implement projects. However, contracts with foreign companies are signed in order to utilize international financial resources.

He concluded that the sanctions will not hamper Iran's oil revenues and expressed hope that oil revenues this year will not only meet the projected figure in the budget but will yield a dhrs. 1.5 to two million additional sum.

Iran: Oil Minister Comments on Turkish Accord, U.S. Embargo

LD0808110296 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A final agreement for the sale of Iranian gas to Turkey worth \$20 billion will be signed during Turkish Prime Minister Erbakan's visit to Tehran next week. In an exclusive interview with a Central News Unit correspondent this morning, after meeting Turkish Energy Minister Recai Kutan in Tehran, Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh stressed the economic and political importance of the agreement.

He said that under the agreement, about 4 million cubic meters of gas will be exported to Turkey per annum. He said that a 260 km pipeline will be laid from near Tabriz to the Turkish border in the next two years to transfer the gas. He said: The agreement to sell Iran's gas to Turkey will continue until the year 2020 and will bring about \$1 billion worth of revenues for Iran per year.

The oil minister was asked about the effects, at home and abroad, of America's oil embargo against the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: In accordance with international laws, that law cannot be enforced. Making and ratifying laws against other countries disrupts the world order. Undoubtedly, other countries, particularly Europe, will oppose it. Today, Europe is in an important test stage, and for it to preserve its identity, it must oppose the issue. If a precedent is set in the world for a country to ratify a law against other countries, it will create numerous global problems.

From a domestic standpoint, as I have said, our oil industry today cannot be compared with that in any period in history. Iran's oil industry today is very efficient and of a very high standard. Undoubtedly, the future will prove that such sanctions will not cause the least disruption in Iran's oil industry. Considering Iran's present status in that industry, in addition to carrying out our domestic tasks, we have become active overseas. We are active in the remotest parts of the world, independently or with the cooperation of international companies. We are active in several countries today.

Iran: Economic Talks With Turkey Begin in Tehran

TA0808120096 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 0947 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ankara, Aug 8 (A.A) — The Turkish-Iranian 13th term Joint Economic Committee, JEC, meeting started in Tehran on Wednesday [7 August].

A Foreign Trade Undersecretariat statement on the issue said the meetings will continue till 11 August and Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Recai Kutan will act as the co-chairman of the JEC meetings. Foreign Trade Deputy Undersecretary Guven Erdal will act as the head of the Turkish technical delegation.

A Turkish technical delegation is reported to be in Iran before Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan's planned visit to this country. The delegation arrived in Tehran on 3 August to hold talks on Turkish-Iranian trade relations, foreign trade balance, economic, industrial and technical cooperation, border trade, natural gas purchasing and debts.

Iran: Mubarak's Diplomatic Mission to U.S. Viewed
NC0608202796 Tehran SALAM in Persian 30 Jul 96 p 12

[Commentary by M. Veysi: "Mubarak's Fruitless Consultations in Washington"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, that is Tuesday [30 July], Egyptian President Husni Mubarak is scheduled to meet the American President in Washington. Mubarak, who is on a four-day visit to the United States, will meet U.S. congressional leaders after his meeting with Bill Clinton.

As has been reported in the international media, Mubarak's most important objective of this visit is to have political consultations with American officials regarding the future trend of the so-called peace process in the Middle East, in the wake of the Netanyahu cabinet assuming power in occupied Palestine.

The emergence of Netanyahu's extremist cabinet in occupied Palestine has been a source of problems for Mubarak from three aspects: The problems and pressures stemming from the Netanyahu cabinet's alleged "escapism from peace," the pressures exerted by the Egyptian Muslim combatants and those who support a harsh approach toward the Zionist regime, and U.S. pressure for controlling anti-Israeli sentiments among Arabs through the Mubarak regime. These are the three main problems facing Mubarak currently, which he hopes will become less intense after his talks with the Americans.

The first problem pertains to the internal situation in Egyptian society. As with his predecessor al-Sadat, Mubarak represents the ideas and thinking that have cast their shadow on some of the Arab rulers after the Zionist regime inflicted numerous military defeats on the Arabs.

According to this mode of thought, more concessions can be obtained from the Zionist regime through "talks" in the new international circumstances; "war" will not have the same benefits for the Arabs. Conversely, the Muslim people of the region, including the combatant Egyptian Muslims, believe that Zionism is inherently an anti-Islamic aggressive ideology and mode of thought. The thinking of this illegitimate progeny, which has usurped the Arab Muslim territories under the name of "Israel," will never view "peace" with Muslims as a "strategy" or "objective" and "talks" will never be intended as a means for attaining a durable peace, but will merely be incorporated in its agenda as a temporarily expedient "tactic."

The appearance of the "Rabin-Peres" faction in the beginning of the 1990's in the Zionist regime's ruling apparatus and its ostensible inclination for the attainment of peace, in conjunction with the massive propaganda of the Zionist news media and their American supporters, projected the proponents of other viewpoint as the meek ones and their perspectives were overshadowed by the politico-propagandist blitz of the rival faction.

However, the subsequent developments, even the signature of the compromise accord by the PLO and Jordan with the Zionist regime, could not uphold the stances of individuals such as Mubarak. Following the peace talks, Jordan turned a blind eye to much of its land being allocated for "the formation of the Palestinian autonomous government." 'Arafat was made to head an installation that lacked self-determination, which was clear to all as the usurpers of Jerusalem revoked their powers whenever they wished.

Despite the above, as long as Rabin and then Peres continued their half-baked talks with the Arabs in

the name of the slogan of peace, individuals such as Mubarak, King Husayn, 'Arafat, and so on, were reveling in their own ideas. However, since Netanyahu assumed power in Tel Aviv and proclaimed his hardline policy, the Arabs such as Mubarak realized that they had been disarmed in the face of the rightful views of their internal opponents with regard to the manner of confronting the danger from the Zionist regime, and that now they have nothing to say.

Now that Netanyahu's extremist policies have been announced and he is not prepared to accept the half-baked commitments of the Rabin-Peres faction to the Arabs, the vantage points of individuals such as Mubarak are facing basic challenges. His government does not know what steps to take in the face of the seething tidal wave of anti-Israeli sentiments from the people of Egypt and the region, which will put a question mark on the legitimacy of governments such as the present one in Egypt in the next phase.

The second and third dilemmas with which Mubarak has to grapple are linked to the same point. On one hand, Netanyahu is not prepared to relinquish his extremist stance and this will exacerbate the problems of the Mubarak regime. On the other, the United States is exerting pressure on the Mubarak regime — as one of the influential governments among the Arabs involved in the talks with the Zionist regime — to mitigate the mounting anti-Zionist mood and sentiments within Arab societies and governments. In other words, this is precisely what Netanyahu requested from the American officials in his visit to Washington last month. This was followed by a visit to the Middle East by officials of the U.S. diplomatic apparatus, so that conducive conditions may be created accordingly.

In such circumstances, it will be very difficult for Mubarak personally, and for his government, to sustain this three-pronged pressure as each of the three sides are making different demands from the Mubarak regime concurrently.

Within this framework, it appears that in his meeting with Clinton today, Mubarak will not only warn him of the dangerous consequences of Netanyahu's extremist policies for all U.S. Arab and non-Arab allies, but will ask him to return to the previous status quo and not permit Netanyahu's stances to undermine the position of the promoters of the "talks with Tel Aviv" stance in the region, as opposed to the posture of the alleged "opponents of peace."

It appears that due to certain factors, Mubarak may not be very successful in this attempt, as the Clinton government is more under the Zionist influence than all other U.S. Governments to date, and it is highly unlikely

that on the eve of the U.S. presidential elections Clinton will be heedless of this fact.

Second, it seems quite far-fetched that Netanyahu will relinquish his beliefs as Tel Aviv officials have realized that the more they speak to the Arabs from a position of strength, the more privileges they gain. If Netanyahu would renege even slightly from his stance, Arabs such as Mubarak would go back to where they stood with Rabin and Peres.

On the other hand, the United States and the Zionist regime now realize that despite his non-acceptance of Syria's proposals to forge an Islamic "Arab-Iranian axis" to counteract Zionist expansionism in the region, Mubarak does not have any trump card for exerting pressure on Washington and Tel Aviv.

All in all, it appears that as was the case with former U.S. Governments, the Clinton administration — by keeping the obsequious Arabs (such as Mubarak) interacting with the Zionist regime for the sake of U.S. regional interests in the Middle East — will once again keep the balance of support in favor of Tel Aviv heavy, in order to keep the Arabs in a state of anticipation of greater concessions.

Iran: President Receives Outgoing Finnish Ambassador

LD0808115596 Tehran IRNA in English
0927 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran Aug. 8 IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Thursday [8 August] received the outgoing Finnish ambassador to Tehran, Eero Saarikoski [name as received]. Referring to the Islamic Republic's success in industrial, technical and construction fields, the president stressed that there exist many potentials for promotion of ties between the two countries. He also underlined the need to further upgrade Tehran-Helsinki friendly relations. Voicing his government's readiness to promote technical, industrial and trade cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran, the ambassador expressed hope that his country will participate in Iran's development projects.

Iran: Iranian Diplomat in Mostar Starts Work

LD0808122496 Tehran IRNA in English
0555 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sarajevo, Aug. 8 IRNA — Iran's consul general Mohammad Nik-Khah officially began his mission in the city of Mostar, in southern Bosnia-Herzegovina on Wednesday [7 August]. Nik-Khah met with the Muslim mayor of Mostar Safet Orucevic Yesterday and reviewed the latest regional developments particularly the current situation in Mostar,

appreciating the Islamic republic's humanitarian aids to the Bosnian government and the nation. Orucevic termed the start of activities of Iranian consulate in Mostar as an important step. He called on the Iranian diplomat to establish contacts with various international foundations and organizations in the city in order to take measures for the benefit of the Bosnian nation.

Iran: DPIK, PUK Reportedly Issue 'Joint Statement'

NC0608193696 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1500 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners. Following the aggression by the regime Islamic Republic of Iran on Iraqi Kurdistan and its attack on the Democratic Party of Iranian Kordestan's [DPIK] headquarters and the camp of the Iranian Kordish refugees in Qada Kuysanjaq and Irbil, a session was convened among the members of the political bureaus of the DPIK and [words indistinct].

A joint statement was issued, the text of which is as follows:

Following the attack by the Islamic Republic of Iran's forces on the DPIK headquarters and the camp of Iranian Kordish refugees in the vicinity of Qada Kuysanjaq on 26 and 28 July 1996, delegations from the political bureaus of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] and the DPIK convened a session on 1-4 August in order to reorganize the reciprocal relations between these two factions and to resolve the problems that had cropped up in their mutual relations in the wake of the Iranian attack.

As a result of these talks, it was agreed that the DPIK should formulate its programs and activities in such a manner that they envisage the current conditions of Iraqi Kurdistan, and reciprocally, the PUK will ensure the political activities of the DPIK in the areas under its control and the safety of the members and supporters of this party.

Similarly, the two sides concurred that for the purpose of the spirit of mutual understanding, and to (?prevent) any difficulties creeping into bilateral relations, they will resort to negotiations and [words indistinct].

[Signed] The political bureaus of the PUK and the DPIK, 4 August 1996, 14 Mordad 1375.

Iran: Interior Minister Cautions KDP Against 'Plotting'

LD0708100396 Tehran IRNA in English
2210 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 6, IRNA — The interior minister and the chief of the country's security

council, 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, here on Tuesday [6 August] cautioned the heads of the outlawed Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) to stop plotting against the regional Kurdish people and heeded them not to fall into the trap of the enemies of the Islamic revolution.

Reviewing in a meeting the security condition of the western part of the country, he underlined that the Islamic republic is determined to totally quell any insurgence and plot against the Islamic Republic of Iran, and counter any incursion, intrusion and infiltration into the Iranian territory.

Political and military impacts of the recent operation in curbing the insurgence of PKD elements in the region by self-sacrificing armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran were also reviewed at the meeting.

The chief of the security council stated that investments and valuable services of the government in the country specifically in the western Iranian Province of Kurdistan was successful, hoping that security would prevail in the province to bring about peace and well being of the people and stability for the region.

He thanked the Kurds for cooperating with the government in bringing about peace, stability and security in addition to their efforts in the reconstruction of the country.

Iran: Opposition Statement Denouncing Recent Attack Issued

NC0708182896 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kurdistan in Persian 1400 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Independent Labor Party of Kordestan [ILPK] issued a statement denouncing the [words indistinct]. In its statement, it says: Resistant people of Kordestan, patriots, and revolutionary offspring. On the evening of 28 July 1996, a large number of the Iranian regime's forces aggressed against the southern boundaries of Kurdistan and advanced a few hundred kilometers into Kurdistan.

On the afternoon of 28 July, the above forces, which were equipped with heavy weaponry including tanks and Katyushas, passed through (?Haydar Sultan) and arrived at the town of Qada Kuysanjaq in the Irbil province of Iraqi Kurdistan and deployed themselves there. Subsequently, they attacked the headquarters of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kordestan [DPIK] and the camp of Iranian Kurdish refugees with heavy artillery fire, which rendered hundreds of the women and children who were the unfortunate inmates of this camp homeless.

Under the pretext of pursuing the DPIK, the Iranian regime [words indistinct] the allied forces, especially the

Poised Hammer forces [Operation Provide Comfort] and blatantly trampled the sanctity of Iraqi Kurdistan. This is tantamount to a violation of all accepted international norms.

The Iranian regime should adhere to all these international laws.

In another part of its statement, the ILPK says: We the Independent Labor Party of Kordestan condemn the recent military attack of the Iranian forces, and call on the United Nations to quickly provide for the housing and livelihood of those who have been affected by this attack and rendered homeless.

We reiterate that this act, which was carried out within sight of the United Nations and in which the boundaries of Kurdistan and the [word indistinct] of our tyrannized people were trampled over roughshod, will no longer be tolerated.

May the determination of our people for a free and (?autonomous) homeland triumph.

[Signed] The Independent Labor Party of Kordestan, our great Kordestan, 30 July 1996.

Iran: Turkish Kurds Protest July Iranian Attack

NC0808055096 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kurdistan in Persian 1400 GMT 7 Aug 96

[Statement issued by the Socialist Party of Turkish Kurdistan on 29 July; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The recent attack on the Iranian refugees' camp inflicted considerable losses. This extensive attack by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps on the camp cannot be justified on any pretext. The regime ruling Iran has committed aggression against the boundaries of federal Kurdistan from the Iraqi border and has trampled underfoot all the acceptable international norms.

The camp of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kordestan [DPIK] is 70 kilometers inside Iraqi Kurdistan. The Iranian military forces infiltrated 250 kilometers deep into the territory of Iraqi Kurdistan.

We the members of the Socialist Party of Turkish Kurdistan vehemently condemn the attack. The Islamic Republic regime should halt the attack and withdraw all its forces from the soil of southern Kurdistan. This onslaught can be considered an attack against the Kurdish people in all parts of Kurdistan, especially against freedom and autonomy in Iranian Kordestan. [words indistinct] and the United Nations should not continue its black silence against the Islamic Republic regime any longer and all the region's governments

should display a reaction against this brazen act and should relinquish their indifference.

We the members of the Socialist Party of Turkish Kurdistan ask all organizations, parties, and political and humanitarian organizations and defenders of human rights to assist the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (DPIK) and the Kordish people in Iraqi Kurdistan.

[Signed] The Socialist Party of Turkish Kurdistan

[Dated] 29 July 1996.

Iran: New Majles Group Official Cited on Goals, Activities

NC0608150596 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
23 Jul 96 pp 1, 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the first phase of the fifth term Majles elections, the deputies supported by the Tehran Militant Clergy Association (TMCA) held several meetings, which led to the formation of a group known as the "Hezbollah of the Fifth Majles" (HFM). To become better acquainted with the objectives of this group and its formation, we interviewed Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Akbar Hoseyni, Tehran people's deputy and HFM chairman.

[RESALAT] When was the meeting for the formation of the HFM held?

[Hoseyni] In the first meeting of the TMCA-backed deputies, after the completion of the second phase of elections that were held at Imam Sadeq University, the sacred name of Hezbollah was chosen for the group. In following sessions, letters of invitation carrying the HFM name were signed. I think that people who get together with a divine thought and organize a divine group are worthy of carrying the name of Hezbollah. To qualify for this name, one should have the special characteristics which come with this name. And the most outstanding characteristic of a Hezbollah is his belief in God and in the Prophet of God. The Holy Koran states that anyone who accepts the guardianship of God and of His Prophet is a Hezbollah. In our days, accepting the supreme jurisconsult is tantamount to accepting the guardianship of God and of His Prophet. The participants in the HFM meeting are honored to support the jurisconsult and to consider the basis of their activities and their views to be the directives of the esteemed leader. In their programs, they are trying to fulfill the lofty objectives of Islam that are outlined by the supreme jurisconsult.

[RESALAT] How many times has the HFM met until now and with how many members was it formed?

[Hoseyni] I think that five sessions have been held so far. Usually, 160 deputies attend these sessions.

[RESALAT] What topics are discussed at the HFM sessions?

[Hoseyni] In these sessions, which are to be held on a monthly basis, consultations are held on the most basic issues in the country. Some of the important topics are discussed in these sessions before they are discussed at the open [Majles] session, in order to coordinate views and ideas. Also, in these sessions the country's major problems will be discussed and the outcomes of these discussions will be presented to the Majles as a bill if necessary.

[RESALAT] It has been said that another group, known as the Majma'-eh Hezbollah [Hezbollah Association], is active in the Majles. Please give us some explanations on this.

[Hoseyni] Some of our deputy friends started to hold meetings immediately after the fifth Majles started its works. At the beginning, their statements and propaganda carried the name of the Coordination Council of Provinces. But, the name Hezbollah was more beautiful and strong. Therefore, they too chose this name for themselves. In their last meeting, it was decided that from then on they would operate under the name of Majma'-eh Hezbollah. Of course, it is a source of honor to be a hezbollahi and to compete with the various factions in the Majles on this path.

[RESALAT] Probably the election of a temporary and permanent board of directors was among the most major activities of these two groups. The candidates of which group received the majority of support by the deputies?

[Hoseyni] For the elections of the board of directors, those friends under the name of the Coordination Council of Provinces and our group, named the HFM, put forth various candidates and several discussions were held. Voting then took place, and the current board of directors, all of whom are HFM candidates, was elected. Actually, the current board of directors comprises members of the HFM. Of course, some of the candidates were joint candidates and received the most votes.

[RESALAT] What topics are discussed by the deputies in the HFM sessions?

[Hoseyni] In these sessions, an ideological issue is always discussed. I spoke at one session and Ayatollah Movahhedi-Kermani spoke at another. An analysis of political and social issues forms another part of our sessions. At one of the sessions Dr. Javad Larijani presented his analysis, and during the past session

Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Dr. Ruhani analyzed another issue. Following these speeches, views are exchanged on the most important issues of the country and the system. During the last session, we discussed the election of people to organizations and institutions.

During the Tuesday 2 Mordad [23 July] session, during the ideological discussion, a political analysis will be presented by Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Ruhani. Also, the information minister is to speak and will answer the deputies' questions.

Iran: Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri on Overseas Economic Interests

LD0608185596 *Tehran IRNA in English*
1638 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 6, IRNA — Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri said here Tuesday [6 August] that the Labour and Social Affairs Ministry should guarantee the interests of and probe into the problems of the "economic forces" outside the country.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri, who made the remark in a meeting with the Labour and Social Affairs Minister Hoseyn Kamali and officials in charge of Iran's Labour and Social Ministry's attaches abroad, touched on the significance of the extraterritorial dissemination of revolution and its values.

He said that Iran would witness inflow of hard currencies and that the economy would be no more dependent on oil in light of a cohesion between Iranian working forces outside the country.

He called for activation of Iranian labour representative bureaus outside and expressed hope that the fifth majles would investigate the issue in a more comprehensive form.

Iran: Human Rights Commission Set Up in Response To U.S. Claims

LD0608190896 *Tehran IRNA in English*
1611 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Aug 6 IRNA — Head of the Islamic Human Rights Commission Ayatollah Bojnurdi outlined the function of his commission in a meeting with senior Lebanese Islamic scholar Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah.

Fadlallah said at the meeting, also attended by Iran's charge d'affairs to Lebanon Mohammad Irani, that the commission was a natural response to the U.S. claims on human rights.

He underlined the need for revealing the terrorist nature of the U.S. before the world, which has had harmful influence and detrimental effect over the issue of the rights of the oppressed nations, especially those in the third world.

Bojnurdi condemned the atrocious crime committed on the defenseless civilians which left over 120 fallen martyrs — unprotected women, pious children and the old aged men — at the refugee camp adjacent to the United Nations peacekeeping forces in Qana southern Lebanon.

He added that such an act was a proof of the criminal nature of the Zionist cruel entity.

Iran: Sunni Official Cited on Islamic Unity

NC0608134196 *Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI*
in Persian 29 Jul 96 pp 15, 2

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mowlavi Eshaq Madani, vice president for Sunni affairs, gave an interview to our correspondents yesterday afternoon on the occasion of Unity Week and the auspicious birthday of the dear Prophet of Islam, peace be upon him and his scion, and answered various questions on efforts for unity in the world of Islam. He also spoke about the achievements of the Islamic Revolution in creating unity among the Muslims of the world in the struggle against the plots by arrogance led by America.

First he referred to the efforts for creating unity in the world of Islam, saying: Unity is of great significance in view of the discord that was spread among the Islamic ummah, and much harm has been inflicted on the world of Islam. Many great men have tried and are still trying to achieve unity in Islam. Meanwhile, there are those who propagate and propound their beliefs in a bid to benefit a specific religion and to negate others. Such methods, which have been tried for years, have not yielded any good results. During some of the religious wars it was seen how the conquerors often tried to suppress the vanquished in order to impose their religion on them. But today we see that none of these methods have proven to be successful.

After the victory of the Islamic Revolution, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, called out in a different manner for unity. He said: Negate no one, but try to find points of agreement. On this basis, movements were formed and Unity Week was founded during his era. And we witnessed good efforts in this. The participation of Muslims from all over the world in special conferences and programs prepared for Unity Week in past years fully reveals the success of this idea of the imam, may his soul be sanctified, and

proves that unity is possible provided it is not sacrificed for the sake of details.

He then went on to comment on the opponents of Islamic unity at home and abroad, saying: The victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran and the proposal of a strategy for unity in the world of Islam have given rise to many opponents at home and abroad. These were the people who considered the unity of the Muslims of the world to be harmful to their illegitimate interests.

The opponents of unity can be listed under three general categories:

1. "World arrogance," which by nature opposes Islamic unity and opposes the rallying of Islamic countries around the liberating banner of Islam. It considers this to be contrary to its illegitimate interests and considers discord among Muslims to be to its benefit. World blasphemy, which is very well aware that if the great Islamic ummah unites, it will constitute the largest world power and therefore, always moves against the world of Islam.

2. The second group, from inside the Islamic ummah, are those who are so-called political personalities and capitalists. Naturally, if the Islamic ummah unites, many of them will be unable to achieve their political and economic objectives. That is why this second group opposes unity.

3. The third group, which has a religious facade, propounds various issues in the name of supporting religion and manipulates the Muslims in order to vindicate their so-called religious legitimacy. Of course, there may also be people with good intentions in this group, but by their mere presence they are pouring oil on the enemy's fire.

Asked why, since the birthday of the great Prophet of Islam is considered to be one of the most significant and auspicious days that Muslims mark as one of the best and most joyful days of the year, the Saudi mufti recently issued a decree disapproving of the celebrations, Mowlavi Eshaq Madani said: The Muslims of the world do not think like the Saudi mufti; they celebrate this day as God's blessing to the world. For example, if a child is born, does not its family rejoice and welcome the newborn baby?! How can the Muslims be asked to be indifferent to the birthday of the Prophet and not to celebrate it?!

One of the Prophet's teachings says that Imam Abu Talib [Prophet Muhammad's uncle] freed a slave as a sign of rejoicing on the day that the Prophet of Islam was born.

The Prophet of Islam is the guiding light of mankind. This is why celebrating his birthday is so natural that I do not see the need to argue this point.

The vice president for Sunni affairs then spoke about the Islamic Republic's development and reconstruction activities in the Sunni-inhabited areas. He said: These areas were among the country's deprived areas since before the revolution. Today if someone goes to these areas from Tehran for the first time, he may not realize what steps have been taken. But since we know what it was like before, we can speak about the immense impact that the revolution has had and the services that it has rendered.

Frankly speaking, whatever there is has been achieved since the revolution. There was nothing before the revolution. Today we go to Saravan by car, although there is no highway. But before the revolution, there was no road at all and many accidents took place as a result. Most villages and areas had no telephones or telecommunications; now they have all these blessings.

There was no education, but now schools are being established. Girls too, who were deprived of education, go to school now. The high schools and the universities in these regions have developed and are attended by many people. At the same time, there is some poverty, but what is important is that the efforts to eradicate poverty and deprivation are being seriously pursued.

Of course, nature has been unkind to these areas. When the temperature is high, the soil is not favorable and there is little rainfall. The government cannot do anything about this. Some areas are inherently deprived areas. But the government is trying to tackle nature's problems and to revive these areas. [passage omitted]

Iran: Use of 'Hezbollah' as New Group's Name Criticized

NC0608151596 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
24 Jul 96 p 2

[Commentary by Hoseyn Shari'atmadari: "Unwanted Offense"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Political groups and processes are free to choose the name and title that they want, and the leaders and officials of a political party can name their party or group according to the taste of the party members and according to party policies. This is a rule and principle that is almost universally accepted in today's political culture. But, groups and parties that rely on Islam should take into consideration other points when naming their party or group. One of these subtle points is the need to respect other individuals and political groups and processes. In other words, the naming

of a party should not harm — even if implicitly and tacitly — the identity of another.

In the first days after the commencement of the fifth Majles, deputies supported by the Tehran Militant Clergy Association formed a group and chose the name of the Hezbollah of the Fifth Majles [HFM] for it. Although this attempt manifests the deputies' love for the hezbollah and declares the commencement of a movement in the path of God, the all-encompassing nature of the hezbollah on the one hand and the specific definition of this word under the current political conditions on the other, makes the choice of the name of the HFM not without problems. And those who have chosen this name for their group — despite their good will — have inadvertently offended other people and political processes which are present in the fifth Majles but which, for their own reasons, do not agree with the views of the Militant Clergy. They have implicitly harmed their identity.

It may be argued that one is free to choose a name, especially when good and religious names and titles are favored. But, one can not forget that political conditions and public opinion are also effected by this choice and should be taken into consideration. For example, choosing the divine name 'Abdollah for a person will never create the feeling that only that person is the son of God and that others — God forbid — are not. But when several political and Islamic groups exist within a specific body and these groups also have differences of opinion and taste with one another, allocating a valuable and holy name such as "Hezbollah" to a group can imply that the other groups and people are not hezbollahi. [passage omitted]

Immediately after the formation of the HFM by the deputies supporting the Militant Clergy Association, the deputies supported by the Kargozaran-e Sazandegi [Officials of Reconstruction] also formed a similar group and chose the name "The Hezbollah Association" for it. Although the same criticisms that have been made against the first group apply to the second group, we should not ignore the fact that the attempt by the latter was merely the natural reaction to the former's action and that it was in order to remove all doubts of their being "non-hezbollahis." It was because of the implied action of the first group that the second group was formed.

Yesterday Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hoseyni, Tehran people's deputy and member of the Militant Clergy, attended an interview with RESALAT and spoke about the formation of the HFM group. He namely stated that the participants in the HFM session are honored to support the supreme jurisconsult and to

base their activities on the esteemed leader's directives. Undoubtedly, he intended to underline the valuable and divine principles of this group. But the question is: Do the other groups, who do not attend the sessions of the group because of their disagreement with it, not have the honor to support the supreme jurisconsult and don't they base their activities on the directives of the esteemed leader? Finally, the best thing to do is for the various factions to use their initial names and to let the people judge the extent of their being "hezbollahi".

Iran: Group Official Responds to Commentary's Criticism

NC0608152396 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
25 Jul 96 p 2

[Comment by Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Akbar Hoseyni in answer to Hoseyn Shari'atmadari's criticism]

[FBIS Translated Text] To my respected brother Mr. Hoseyn Shari'atmadari; God's blessings and peace be upon you.

With great respect, I am sending you the following note in answer to your commentary "Unwanted Offense," to be published in the same column as your commentary.

In the name of God, the almighty and merciful:

In your commentary entitled "Unwanted Offense", you referred to my interview published in RESALAT (on Tuesday 2 Mordad 1375) [23 July 1996] and cited the phrase that "the participants in the HFM [Hezbollah of the Fifth Majles] meeting are honored to support the jurisconsult and to consider the basis of their activities and their views to be the directives of the esteemed leader..."

And then you posed the question: "Don't the other groups, which do not attend the sessions of the group because of their disagreement with it, have the honor to support the supreme jurisconsult and don't they base their activities on the directives of the esteemed leader?"

I have answered these questions of yours in the continuation of the said interview, which, if you had paid the necessary attention to, you would not have stated that this divine word implicitly offends other people. In continuation of the same interview I stated: "...the name Hezbollah was more beautiful and strong. Therefore, they too chose this name for themselves... Of course it is a source of honor to be a Hezbollah and to compete with the various factions in the Majles on this path."

You can see that not only did we not imply any offense against any of our friends, but we also accepted the fact that it is an honor, both for us and for our friends, to

accept the name "Hezbollah". We also expressed the hope that we will strive in a divine competition on the path of "being and becoming a hezbollahi" so that we will be able to fully deserve this name.

In conclusion, I laud your good intentions and hope that with your sweet and strong pen you will always continue your literary efforts, will always work toward friendship and bringing hearts together, and will condone any unwanted harm that you think may have been done.

With gratitude and modesty:

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Akbar Hoseyni

KEYHAN's note: We thank His Eminence Hojjat ol-Islam val Moslemin Mr. Hoseyni and his good intentions and deem it necessary to point out that in yesterday's commentary in KEYHAN, the exclusive use of the word Hezbollah for one political group, in view of the all-encompassing nature of this word and the special characteristics of this name on the current political scene of the country, was considered as an offense — of course, unintended — against others.

Pakistan

Pakistan: Qazi Terms Government CTBT Policy 'Local Version' of U.S. Policy

BK0508160996 Islamabad THE NEWS in English
5 Aug 96 p 9

[Report by THE NEWS correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahore — Amir Jamaat Islami Qazi Hussain Ahmed has said statement of the foreign minister [FM] on CTBT [Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty] does not reflect the desired state policy, rather it looks like the local version of the U.S. policy on the issue.

Talking to newsmen, on his way back from Peshawar after addressing a public meeting at Jinnah Park Peshawar Saturday [3 August], he said Jamaat would continue coordinated efforts with other parties to make its present drive against the corrupt government a success. He said reported statement of the foreign minister on the CTBT has once again aired an anti-state policy of the government on the subject. He observed, "the perturbed FM has been looking at the CTBT in the light of the U.S. policy.

He expressed dismay over the fact that Indian policy on the subject is much more vigorous, saying our government, instead of adopting a comprehensive policy, is falling prey to the external pressure. The JI [Jammati-Islami] chief took strong exception to the U.S. policy on nuclear arrangement and said the United States has adopted a sinful policy in this regard.

He said it would not be fair to give right of administering justice to those sinner states who had tested their nuclear device on human beings while banning the same for others. He reiterated that should not sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty even if India does so. He said balance of conventional arms between India and Pakistan is already disturbed. Asking India to abandon its claim on Kashmir, Qazi said its tall claims on Kashmir had not been sanctioned by the conscience. Despite 50-year old control of India on Kashmir, it could not convince the Kashmiris to call themselves Indians.

To a question, Qazi said the Jammati would keep its identity intact in the ongoing struggle against the government. However, he said efforts shall be made for seeking joint and coordinated support of the other parties in the movement. This, he said is inevitable for achieving the end result of the grand Islamic revolution in the country.

He said Benazir Bhutto is a stumbling block in the way of Islamic revolution in the country, therefore, fall of this corrupt government is a must. To another question, he warned the government that it should not lend support to any move aimed at creating political disorder in Afghanistan. He said if meddling in the Afghan affairs by the external powers stops, Hekmatyared government will bring peace within one year.

Pakistan: Opposition Leader Cites 4 Conditions for Signing CTBT

BK0608114696 Islamabad THE NEWS in English
6 Aug 96 pp 1, 9

[Report by Tariq Butt]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD: Leader of the opposition Nawaz Sharif on Monday [5 August] said that Pakistan should not sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) unless four major conditions are accepted.

These are: its security concerns are removed satisfactorily and national security requirement fully met; Kashmir issue is resolved according to the UN resolutions; all disputes with India are solved; and a no-war pact is signed with India.

Sharif told a news conference here that Pakistan should not make the CTBT conditional with that of India. He said those powers which want Pakistan to ink the treaty should resolve Islamabad's disputes with New Delhi and get a no-war agreement signed by the two countries.

"Pakistan will have to be made free of all dangers if it is to ink the CTBT. We cannot leave our security on others' mercy and will ink the CTBT by endangering our security," he declared.

To a question, the opposition leader said during his recent visit to Pakistan the American ambassador in India talked about the Kashmir issue but did not speak about the CTBT when he met him here. Sharif said the government's stand on the treaty is full of contradictions. In the beginning, it issued a statement welcoming the CTBT, he said and asked: "Who are they to decide about the issue?"

He said his government had proposed a five-nation conference for a nuclear-free zone. "We took a clear and unambiguous stand on the nuclear issue and we were accused of terrorism for giving aid to Kashmiris despite the fact that it was fair."

His government, he said, was subjected to every kind of pressure, but it did not compromise on the nuclear program. "One reason for hatching a conspiracy against our government in 1993 could be that we had refused to compromise on our national interests. We had moved to self-reliance after the stoppage of foreign aid."

Talking about the domestic politics, Sharif said there is a total anarchy in the country. "Economy has been destroyed and only an announcement declaring the country bankrupt remains to be made. Extra judicial killings have again been started in Karachi. Who does not know that the interior minister is the biggest terrorist and the prime minister is his patron."

He said traders, doctors, clerks, transporters and labor have observed strikes and the law and order situation is worst.

Sharif said Asif Zardari has gone to London to look after the Surrey palace. Reports have also appeared in the newspapers about the foreign property of Hakim Ali Zardari, he said adding that Zee television has shown a film on the Surrey mansion and no aspect of this property is hidden from people. "The country is being ruled by a clique of corrupt people."

He said 14 opposition parties have got together to wage a joint struggle against the government. We will get cooperation of other political and religious forces to reinforce our struggle, he said adding that the Lahore summit to be held on Tuesday (today) [6 August] will also deliberate over the nuclear program. Earlier, Sharif presided over a four-hour long meeting of his party leaders to prepare for the second summit of the 14 parties to be held on his invitation.

Pakistan: Leaders Agree To Continue 'Principled Stand' on CTBT

BK0608115196 Islamabad THE NEWS in English
6 Aug 96 pp 1, 9

[Report by Raja Zulfikar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister [PM] Benazir Bhutto and Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Jehangir Karamat met President Farooq Leghari Monday [5 August] amid reports that they discussed Islamabad's stance on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

Informed sources said the meeting discussed the ongoing disarmament conference in Geneva, taking stock of the views expressed at the conference. The three agreed to continue with Islamabad's principled stand on the CTBT.

The Indian stance on CTBT also reverberated in the meeting. Official sources were, however, quick at denying and insisted that the meeting was called to view internal security. They dismissed as baseless what remained the talk of the town — discussion on CTBT — as the troika met for a pre-scheduled session at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. The meeting was also attended by heads of different agencies.

The PM and COAS stayed with the President for about two-and-a-half hours, during which some other matters were also deliberated. "Issues concerning India and Afghanistan may have come up for debate," an official spokesman commented.

Another item discussed in the meeting, and confirmed by senior government sources, was the terrorist activities in Punjab. "The meeting took a serious note of the internal situation with particular reference to the recent series of bomb blasts and decided a number of measures to cope with it," an official said. He did not, however, unveil the steps.

Another issue of discussion was the situation in Kashmir and the possibility of talks with India. The meeting thought it unreasonable to enter into dialogue with New Delhi until the Kashmir issue became the first priority. The troika also debated briefly on the situation in Afghanistan but official sources did not comment on it.

Pakistan: All Parties Conference Meets To Discuss CTBT

BK0708131996 Islamabad *THE NATION* in English
7 Aug 96 pp 1, 15

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahore — The All Parties Conference has dismissed the government's stance that 'it will sign the CTBT [Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty] if India does so' as unprincipled and far from reality, terming it a trap in which Pakistan will be eventually forced to sign the Treaty unconditionally. The Declaration issued at the end of the session warned the government that the nation would not accept any such decision - whether it was unconditional signing, of the CTBT or anything else that could endanger the national security. The APC emphasised that Pakistan should obtain certain guarantees for its defence from the world failing which it must continue its nuclear programme without any pressure or hindrance. The Conference convened to debate two crucial issues-Kashmir and CTBT-was attended by heads and representatives of 25 political and religious parties, most of them being splinter groups having no representation either in the Parliament or in the Provincial legislatures.

While the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] had not been invited on the plea that it had no clear stance on the issue, JUI (F) [Jamiat-i-Ulema-Front] and PML(J) [Pakistan Muslim League-Junejo] (both Chattha and Wattoo factions) preferred to abstain.

That Pakistan might fall in the trap was based on the premise that India might at some stage agree to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty after obtaining certain assurances for its security from the international community. The last sentence in the first draft of the 'Declaration' that Pakistan should not sign the CTBT without having certain preconditions fulfilled was omitted from the final draft (the sixth one) after some of the participants objected to it. The aggressive participants wanted a stronger version to be incorporated in the draft:

Pakistan should carry out a nuclear explosion at once. The Declaration clearly signaled to the world powers that they should not expect Pakistan to sign the Treaty while ignoring its own security and interests. While accepting the importance of a nuclear-free world the All Parties Conference stressed the need for obtaining certain preconditions for the security and sovereignty of Pakistan. Following are the preconditions:

(a) India should be forced to hold plebiscite in Occupied Kashmir in accordance with the UN Resolution, with-

draw its troops from the occupied territory and refrain from forcing elections in Kashmir.

(b) India should make a commitment before the international community that it would immediately remove missiles installed on 'our' border and sign a no war pact with Pakistan. It further demanded that the international powers at the back of the Treaty should make sure that these commitments would be honoured and this guarantee be included in the Treaty as a protocol.

(c) If the United States and other member of the Nuclear Club were really interested in saving the world from the destruction through atomic war, they should first fix a time frame for destroying their own stockpiles of nuclear warheads and this assurance be incorporated in the proposed draft. Besides this an effective ban should be imposed on the production of nuclear weapons through nuclear tests or other means.

Briefly describing the situation Pakistan had been confronting from the Day One of its inception regarding its security in the face of gradual buildup of India's conventional and nuclear war fare, the declaration took a serious view of the decision taken by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto about capping the nuclear programme during her previous tenure without taking the Parliament into confidence. The first session of the All Parties Conference ended on a demand that the original draft of the proposed CTBT should be made public and presented in the joint session of the Parliament for a thread-bare discussion.

Pakistan: Article Views Reasons Why CTBT Should Be Signed

BK0508154596 Islamabad *THE NEWS* in English
5 Aug 96 p 6

[Article by Zia Mian: "Why Pakistan Should Sign CTBT"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There are three reasons why Pakistan should sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty [CTBT]. Not all of them are good reasons, in the sense of being based on moral principles, but they are reasons nonetheless. There is a political reason, a strategic reason, and a moral one, each appealing to different ways of thinking about the same problem. But people must think for themselves, however they choose to do so, what others may or may not do, is never a basis for action.

The first reason is political, and as such quite immoral, and very local. For at least the last twenty years, the official claims of successive Pakistani governments that they want nuclear disarmament have not been believed because it has talked about disarmament while

developing nuclear weapons. It has lived a lie for all these years. No one, and that includes the government of this country, believes the official position that Pakistan's nuclear program is for "peaceful purposes". This has had, as everyone knows, an enormously detrimental effect on Pakistan.

Not signing the CTBT leaves Pakistan in the same position as India, which seems intent on not signing the treaty, and will confirm international fears about both countries. South Asia would become a focus for international pressure in many arenas, with India and Pakistan suffering together. But, Pakistan's capacity to absorb international pressure, already weakened after years of American sanctions, diminishes daily. Pakistan has never been as dependent as it is now on internal aid and good trade relations.

Accepting for a moment the rather sordid idea that India's loss is Pakistan's gain, then by signing the CTBT and leaving India out in the cold would strengthen Pakistan's position with respect to India enormously. The world could concentrate its attentions on India, and give Pakistan some breathing space. Moreover, at a time when the U.S. seems about to engage with the question of Kashmir, Pakistan would do well by the Kashmiris if its standing in the international community improved.

The second reason why Pakistan can sign the CTBT is strategic, and rather ugly. Dr A.Q. Khan, has argued publicly that the twenty years spent achieving Pakistan's "capability" would all have been futile if we were to sign the CTBT unilaterally now. Others have argued similarly, that unless India signs, Pakistan cannot sign the CTBT because it would somehow prevent it responding to an Indian nuclear weapons test and thus, the argument goes, imperil Pakistan's security.

These arguments are simply not true. An Indian nuclear test, or even a series of such tests would not imperil Pakistan's security. It is easy to see why. If Dr. A.Q. Khan is telling the truth about Pakistan having a "capability" that has "neutralized India's overwhelming conventional superiority and the nuclear threat", and if the prime minister is to be believed when she says that Pakistan's nuclear capability has been functioning as a deterrent against India, then nothing India can do will affect this country.

Deterrence is in the minds of the people at whom the weapons are aimed. They have to feel afraid that the weapons will be used against them. If deterrence is already working, it means Indian military planners are already convinced that Pakistan would be able to use a nuclear weapon against India in case of a war. If Indian military planners are already so afraid, despite Pakistan never having even carried out a nuclear test, what would

Pakistan gain by keeping open its option to carry out a nuclear test?

It could be argued that circumstances may change, and Pakistan may need to carry out a test. Signing the CTBT would also prevent such a possibility. In all international, arms control treaties there is a standard "national interest opt-out" clause. This usually says something along the lines that any state which signs a treaty can withdraw if it feels that "extraordinary events related to the subject matter of the treaty have jeopardized its supreme interest". In the case of the CTBT, the U.S., Russia, France and Britain have already said that if they have reason to believe the safety and reliability of their nuclear weapons are suffering they will consider this to be basis for withdrawing from the treaty and, presumably resume nuclear testing.

It would be within Pakistan's rights as a signatory of the treaty to decide that a series of Indian nuclear weapons tests, or even one that for that matter, constituted a threat to its "supreme national interest" and withdraw from the treaty. If Pakistan wanted to carry out a nuclear test in such a situation, it would be free to do so, signing the CTBT would not take away that right.

The third, and real reason why Pakistan should sign the CTBT is moral. It can be stated simply; nuclear weapons are particularly evil weapons and anything that helps the processing of getting rid of them needs to be supported. The CTBT has great value simply because it is an internationally agreed treaty which constrains the future of both the weapons and the ideas that they have associated with them. This future is clear from the preamble to the Treaty, which stresses "continued systematic and progressive effort to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate goal of eliminating these weapons, and of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control".

The CTBT, thus, is a formal recognition by the countries of the world that nuclear weapons are bad and need to be eliminated. As such, it is another normative step towards a nuclear weapons free world. And, by referring to "general and complete disarmament" the CTBT reiterates the importance of doing away with all weapons. Pakistan should sign the CTBT because banning nuclear weapons is the right thing to do. The vast majority of the world's countries support the CTBT for just this reason. It will help push the world a little closer to a situation which all right thinking people would like to see, a world where disputes between nations are not sorted out against background of the capability and the intention to commit unconscionable crimes.

Pakistan: Bhutto Views Bilateral Ties to Turkmen Foreign Minister

BK0608073396 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A Turkmenistan delegation led by Boris Shikhrmuradov, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, called on Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Islamabad yesterday. Matters of mutual interest, especially an oil and gas pipeline between Pakistan and Turkmenistan, were discussed. Other matters, such as investment in infrastructure for boosting bilateral trade and privatization of utilities services, were also discussed. Boris Shikhrmuradov conveyed a message from Turkmen President Niyazov to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. The seven-member Turkmen delegation is in Islamabad on a two-day visit to the country at the invitation of Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali.

Pakistan: Leghari Discusses Cooperation With Turkmenistan Minister

BK0708150996 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said Pakistan supports all efforts for economic development and trade cooperation among the countries of South Asia, Middle East, and Central Asian Republics. The president was talking to foreign minister of Turkmenistan, Mr. Boris Shikhrmuradov, who called on him at the Aiwan-i-Sadr [Presidency] today. He said we could have a system of several pipelines to cater to the ever growing needs of gas, oil, and other items in Pakistan, India and other countries of the region. Pakistan was looking forward to effective implementation of all such projects, the president remarked. The president said Pakistan wants an end to factional fighting in Afghanistan to expedite economic and trade cooperation among all countries of the region.

Turkmenistan's foreign minister said his country wants to have very close cooperation with Pakistan and other ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] countries to benefit from each other's huge resources and big markets.

Pakistan: Press Statement Issued Following Talks With Turkmen Leader

BK0808091596 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan and Turkmenistan have decided to give priority to projects that deal with linking the two countries by road and railways, electricity transmission, and laying of oil and gas pipelines. This

was stated in a joint press statement issued in Islamabad yesterday at the conclusion of talks held by Boris Shikhrmuradov, Turkmen deputy prime minister and foreign minister, with his Pakistani counterpart and other Pakistani leaders.

The two sides emphasized the promotion of cooperation among the countries of the region in various fields and reviewed the steps taken under the Economic Cooperation Organization. Pakistan and Turkmenistan also expressed their resolve to oppose any nuclear and ballistic missile race in the region and support nuclear non-proliferation and an early conclusion of a universal and comprehensive test ban treaty. The two sides expressed grave concern over the developments in Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and occupied Kashmir. They support national reconciliation in Afghanistan and Tajikistan in hopes to achieve a lasting peace. They stressed they are committed to this goal. Turkmenistan expressed its readiness to assist in finding a just solution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute so as to lessen the tension in South Asia. It also expressed grave concern over the situation prevailing in occupied Kashmir.

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka: Foreign Affairs Minister Views Steps To Combat Terrorism

BK0708122996 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Sri Lanka Government is today firmly linked with international government networks to combat terrorism. G-7 countries have resolved to adopt a series of measures to share intelligence and prevent fund raising for terrorism in various countries. The government has also taken all security measures for the safety of tourists and they are good as any taken anywhere, said Lakshman Kadirgamar, minister of foreign affairs, recently. The minister was addressing a delegation of 72 travel journalists from 22 countries on a familiarization and educational tour sponsored by the Ceylon Tourist Board and the Tourist Hotels Association of Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka: 'Fierce Battles' Continue in Northern Province

BK0708113996 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Troops of Operation Sathjaya and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] kept up fierce battles in the Northern Province. Troops continue to advance further southwards under enemy

resistance. Terrorists resisted using mortars, machine guns, RPGs [Rocket-Propelled Grenades], and small arms. The security forces had cleared the liberated areas of land mines and booby traps. The operational headquarters of the Defense Ministry says that the Air Force continue to engage terrorist positions causing severe damage to identified terrorist locations. However, terrorist radio transmissions have not so far divulged the casualties suffered from these effective air strikes. Two officers and 15 soldiers died in action, another three soldiers sustained injuries in the fighting. Troops of Operation Sathjaya resumed their forward march yesterday.

At Nochchimoddai, about 8 km north of Vavuniya, troops in an ambush confronted a group of terrorists killing four of them. During the subsequent search, they recovered two bodies and one automatic rifle from the scene of the incident. One soldier was killed in action and another was wounded. At Pettalai, in the Batticaloa District, a group of terrorists abducted 10 civilians along with six boats while they were fishing.

Sri Lanka: Tigers Tie Down Troops; Government Admits Toll Over 2,275

BK0708115896 Hong Kong AFP in English
1135 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Aug 7 (AFP) — Tamil rebels escalated resistance to a military advance in northern Sri Lanka Wednesday [7 August], officials said as the government admitted that more than 2,275 people perished during an attack on an army garrison.

Ferocious counter-assaults by the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) prevented security forces making significant progress on the razed rebel political headquarters at Kilinochchi, officials said.

The Defence Ministry, however, said the ground advance continued Tuesday [6 August] but gave no details. "Terrorists continued to engage the advancing troops from well-fortified defences," the ministry said.

The toll among security forces conducting the latest offensive launched on Sunday [4 August] rose to 47 killed and about 70 wounded by Tuesday [6 August] evening, the ministry said, and placed Tiger losses at 263 killed and more than 100 wounded.

The Tigers in a statement from their London office said they were resisting the military onslaught and gave their casualties as 51 killed.

"So far 51 LTTE fighters have attained martyrdom in resisting the military advance towards Kilinochchi," the LTTE said adding that government forces were

pounding the area with artillery guns and ground attack aircraft.

Officials said that fighting continued Wednesday and troops remained three kilometres (1.8 miles) from the town of Kilinochchi. The battle for Kilinochchi was seen by many analysts as a prestige issue for both sides.

Having lost the key garrison of Mullaitivu in the island's north-east last month, the government was determined to salvage troop and national morale through a tit-for-tat attack on Kilinochchi, analysts said.

However, Kilinochchi is the Tigers' last bastion after they were driven out of their former citadel of Jaffna, further to the north, following a series of military operations begun last October.

Junior defence minister in his first statement to parliament on the Mullaitivu debacle since Tigers attacked the garrison on July 18, said "over 700 soldiers" and "more than 1,500 Tigers" died in the attack on the garrison.

He said the LTTE had used thousands of fighters, including suicide cadres, to overwhelm the 1,488-strong Mullaitivu military complex to prevent security forces eventually moving towards Kilinochchi.

Official sources said only about 35 soldiers in the garrison had survived. Ratwatte said another 75 soldiers sent to reinforce Mullaitivu were also killed and another 321 wounded by the Tigers.

"It is inevitable that some battles are lost. But the goal of the campaign is final victory," Ratwatte said. "The number killed and wounded in action amongst LTTE cadres according to their own transmissions runs over 1,500."

The LTTE for its part had said that it lost 241 fighters and killed more than 1,200 government soldiers in the attack against Mullaitivu camp on July 18. The military has since abandoned the base.

Shortly after the Mullaitivu defeat, the worst suffered by Sri Lankan security forces in the decades-old Tamil separatist war, the military mounted an offensive to take Kilinochchi.

Ratwatte, who is responsible for the government's drive against the LTTE, said the army was moving towards Kilinochchi and claimed that the Tigers were on the run.

"We are already on the way to Kilinochchi and the LTTE cadres have already started running away into the jungles," Ratwatte said.

The Defence Ministry said Wednesday that the navy had attacked a Tiger boat off the island's northern coast, killing four Tigers while the air force continued

to engage "terrorist positions in depth" causing severe damage.

The LTTE had moved to Kilinochchi after losing their former citadel of Jaffna, the symbol of Tamil separatism.

"There are no worthwhile buildings left (in Kilinochchi)," the LTTE said. "Artillery shells and aerial bombs have reduced all concrete structures to heaps of rubble."

Sri Lanka: LTTE Warns U.S. To Remain Neutral in Ethnic Conflict

BK0808074096 Hong Kong AFP in English
0731 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Aug 8 (AFP) — The Tamil Tiger guerrillas have warned the United States to remain neutral in Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict, saying diplomatic and military support from Washington to the Colombo government would worsen the bloodshed.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), in the latest issue of its official organ, a copy of which was received here Thursday [8 August], said US troops had begun training Sri Lankan soldiers battling them in the island's northeast.

"The US Green Berets are training the Sinhala army in Colombo," VIDUTHALAI PULIGAL (Liberation Tiger) newspaper said in its July 15-31 issue.

"At the same time, American arms are being sold to the Sri Lankan government since it has withdrawn its earlier stand of not selling lethal weapons to Sri Lanka," the Tigers said.

The US and Sri Lankan governments have confirmed that the US military is training Sri Lankan soldiers, but only in humanitarian work, such as air evacuation

of casualties and medical treatment. Sri Lankan army officers are also undergoing military training in US academies.

The LTTE also accused the United States of issuing statements critical of the Tigers who are leading a violent campaign for a separate homeland in the island's northern and eastern regions. More than 50,000 people have been killed since the campaign began in 1972. "It is the wish of our people that America should do all possible to create a peaceful atmosphere in the Sri Lankan island by adopting a neutral stand and diplomatic efforts.

"Anything other than this will only further complicate the ethnic issue and expand the war, resulting in human misery," the Tigers said.

Last month, the United States branded Tiger guerrillas as terrorists and strongly hinted that the Colombo government should not negotiate peace with the rebels.

US State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns was quoted as saying the Clinton administration considered the LTTE as "ruthless and vicious terrorists."

"It is up to the Sri Lankan government to make whatever decisions it wishes on this matter," Burns said. "As a general rule, the United States itself certainly will not have productive relations with any terrorist group."

The Tiger guerrillas conducted six months of talks with the government of President Chandrika Kumaratunga before abruptly calling off talks and resuming their protracted campaign for independence in the island's northeast.

The LTTE has been accused of staging spectacular suicide bomb attacks that have killed nearly 200 people, including Sri Lankan president Ranasinghe Premadasa and former Indian premier Rajiv Gandhi.

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